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01 July 2009



PPA OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

NO. 06 - 2009

T O : All Port District Managers/Port Managers
Shipping Lines/Companies/Agents
Terminal Operators/Cargo Handlers
Harbor Pilots/Associations And Others Concerned

S U B J : **GUIDELINES ON RESUMPTION OF DIRECT BERTHING PRIVILEGES (CONTROLLED FREE PRATIQUE)**

In line with public health measures on the Influenza A(H1N1) and in response to the clamor of shipping lines for screening measures without causing undue delay in port operations, the strict observance and implementation of the attached 25 June 2009 Bureau Of Quarantine (BOQ) Memorandum by Dr. Edgardo C. Sabitsana, BOQ Director, is hereby directed in ports nationwide. Said Memorandum entitled "Resumption Of Direct Berthing (Controlled Free Pratique) For Ocean-Going Merchant Vessel" provides that the Direct Berthing Request (Controlled Free Pratique) shall be granted on a case-to-case basis under the prerequisites and conditions prescribed therein.

It is emphasized to all concerned that under direct berthing privileges, only vessels with an approved Controlled Free Pratique shall be allowed to enter the port. After the vessel has been granted Controlled Free Pratique, the Harbor Pilot shall conduct pilotage service by bringing in the vessel to her assigned berth. The Harbor Pilot shall take all precautionary measures and are advised not to render pilotage if with fever or influenza-like illness. The incoming vessel shall continue to fly the Quarantine Yellow Flag until cleared by the Quarantine Officer.

Upon docking at its assigned berth, the vessel shall be boarded first by the Quarantine Medical Officer. The Harbor Pilot shall wait and disembark only together with the Quarantine Medical Officer and only after the Free Pratique has been granted. Only then shall other authorities/persons be allowed to embark/disembark after the Free Pratique has been granted. All quarantine protocols shall still apply and suspected cases of the Influenza A(H1N1) shall be immediately reported and coordinated with the Bureau of Quarantine.

For guidance and immediate compliance.

LEOPOLDO F. BUNGUBUNG
Assistant General Manager for Operations

Encl : BOQ Memorandum dated 25 June 2009

VISION

By 2010, PPA shall have met the international standards in port facilities and services in at least ten (10) ports in support of national development.

MISSION

We commit to provide reliable and responsive services in our ports, sustain development of our port communities and the environment, and be a model corporate agency of the government.



108 Years of
Ensuring Health Security
at Ports of Entry.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF QUARANTINE
25th and A.C. Delgado Streets
Port Area, Manila



MEMORANDUM

TO : ALL CONCERNED

FROM : EDGARDO C. SABITSANA, MD, MPH,
Director IV, CESO-III

SUBJECT : Resumption of Direct Berthing (Controlled Free Pratique)
For Ocean-Going Merchant Vessel

Date : 25 June 2009

In line with the Bureau thrust of minimal interference to trade and in response to the clamor of the shipping lines for an efficient way of implementing screening measures without causing undue delay in port operations and taking into consideration public health interest;

Wherein ocean-going merchant vessel ordinarily has a crew compliment of 25 - 40 persons more or less that can be appropriately handled by the Quarantine Medical Officer at pier-side (berth) with the on-going health measures for Influenza A(H1N1).

Direct Berthing Request (Controlled Free Pratique) shall be granted on a case-to-case basis with the following prerequisites and directives:

1. A duly accomplished direct berthing request (Controlled free Pratique) shall be applied with the Bureau of Quarantine at least Forty-eight (48) hours prior to the arrival of the vessel accompanied by a list of port of call (Voyage Memo) during the last two (2) weeks;
2. Only vessels with an approved direct berthing request (Controlled free Pratique) shall be allowed to enter the port. Said Vessel shall fly the yellow flag;

3. At berth, it is understood that the vessel shall be boarded first by the Quarantine Medical Officer. It is emphasized that only after a free pratique is granted will all other persons be allowed to embark or disembark;
4. Harbor pilots are to take the necessary precautionary measures and advised not to render duty if they have fever or influenza - like illness. It is understood that the harbor pilot shall wait and disembark only together with the Quarantine Medical Officer and only after the free pratique is granted;
5. The Master shall report in advance any medical related case/s, emergencies, death on board her vessel. The required maritime health declaration and other health documents shall be accomplished and submitted to the quarantine medical officer;
6. Passenger liners are excluded in this memo and shall follow previous arranged protocol.
7. All Government port authorities and agencies are encourage to assist in implementing this memorandum;
8. The Director of Quarantine reserved the right to revoke direct berthing request anytime depending on certain condition of public health interest.

All orders, memoranda and /or Bureau of Quarantine issuances in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded, revised or modified accordingly.

This memorandum shall take effect on 01 July 2009.

For compliance.