



To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam,

**KEY WORKER EXEMPTION FROM MANDATORY QUARANTINE AND PROOF OF NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST**

The holder of this letter is employed in the maritime industry in a capacity that is exempt from the requirements to self-isolate for 10 days upon arrival in England, Wales or Northern Ireland. The exemption from quarantine applies additionally if the holder is travelling to Scotland in order to join a ship. The holder of this letter is also exempt from having to provide a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to departure on an inbound flight, to be tested on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> days following their arrival and to complete the Passenger Locator Form unless they work on a vessel that carries passengers and they travel in a part of the vessel that is accessible to passengers.

**The exemption from quarantine applies even if the holder of this letter has been in a country that is on the Government's Red List in the ten days prior to their arrival in England, Wales or Northern Ireland.**

The categories of exemption relating to the maritime industry are as follows:

- Seaman and Masters as defined in section 313(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995
- Maritime Pilots as defined in paragraph 22(1) of schedule 3A of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.
- Inspectors and surveyors of ships appointed under section 256 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

The exemption from the requirements to self-isolate and to present confirmation of a negative Covid-19 test applies regardless of whether the individual is arriving in the UK for the purposes of crew change, shore leave or returning home on leave.

Evidence of employment in the above categories that should be accepted includes:

- A Seafarers Identification Document (SID)
- Joining papers
- Seafarers Employment Agreement (SEA)
- Seafarers discharge book
- Basic training certificate
- Declaration from the registered owners of a vessel confirming the individual as a crew member.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read "Mark Dickinson", is shown within a light grey rectangular box.

Mark Dickinson  
General Secretary  
Nautilus International

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Sanguinetti", is shown within a light grey rectangular box.

Bob Sanguinetti  
Chief Executive Officer  
UK Chamber of Shipping

The above information has been extracted from guidance updated by the UK government on 19 March 2021 which is reproduced below and is available at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules)

## **Seamen and masters and inspectors and surveyors of ships**

### **Travel from UK**

You do not need to complete a declaration form for overseas travel.

### **Travel to UK**

You need to [complete the passenger locator form](#) before you travel to the UK, if you travel in a part of the vessel that is accessible to any passenger for any part of the journey.

You do not need to complete the passenger locator form if you travel in a part of the vessel that is not accessible to passengers or you travel on a vessel that does not carry passengers, for example, fishing boats.

You do not need to take a coronavirus test before you travel to England if you are a seafarer or fisherman, inspector or surveyor of ships due to work on a vessel or need to transit the UK to join or leave a vessel. You should show a valid SID if you have one.

You do not need to take a coronavirus test on day 2 and day 8 after arrival in the UK.

If you live in the UK you do not need to self-isolate. If you live overseas you must [self-isolate in your accommodation](#) while in England, except while you are undertaking the exempt activity or travelling as part of your work.

### **Red list countries**

You are permitted to enter the UK and you do not need to quarantine in a government approved hotel or take a coronavirus test on day 2 and day 8, even if you have been in any [country on the travel ban red list](#) in the previous 10 days.

If you live in the UK you do not need to self-isolate. If you live overseas you must [self-isolate in your accommodation](#) while in England, except while you are undertaking the exempt activity or travelling as part of your work.

When you are in a red list country you should take additional precautions to minimise contact with others.

If you work on a ship, including fishermen, you should show a Seafarer's Identification Document (SID) if you have one.

If you don't have a SID, you can show your joining papers, seafarer's employment agreement or a seafarer's discharge book (Continuous Certificate of Discharge) instead. Alternatively, you could show a basic training certificate or declaration from the registered owners of the vessel that you are a crew member.

Applies to:

Seamen and masters as defined in section 313(1) Merchant Shipping Act 1995, maritime pilots as defined in para 22(1) of schedule 3A of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 where they have travelled

to the United Kingdom in the course of their work or been repatriated, and inspectors and surveyors of ships appointed under section 256 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 or by a government of a relevant British possession as defined in section 313(1) of that Act where they have travelled to the United Kingdom in the course of their work.

The guidance applicable in respect of travel to Scotland was updated on 19 March 2021 and is available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-international-travel-quarantine/pages/sectoral-exemptions/> It states as follows:

### **Seamen, Masters of ships, inspectors and surveyors of ships**

You can only use these provisions if you fall within the following definition:

- seamen and masters [as defined in section 313(1) Merchant Shipping Act 1995, maritime pilots as defined in para 22(1) of schedule 3A of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995] where they have travelled to the United Kingdom in the course of their work or been repatriated, and inspectors and surveyors of ships [appointed under section 256 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 or by a government of a relevant British possession as defined in section 313(1) of that Act] where they have travelled to the United Kingdom in the course of their work
- you need to complete the passenger locator form before you travel to Scotland, if you travel in a part of the vessel that is accessible to any passenger for any part of the journey
- you do not need to complete the passenger locator form if you travel in a part of the vessel that is not accessible to passengers or you travel on a vessel that does not carry passengers, for example, fishing boats.
- you do not need to take a coronavirus test before you travel to Scotland if you are a seafarer, inspector or surveyor of ships or fisherman due to work on a vessel or need to transit the UK to join or leave a vessel. You should show a valid SID if you have one.
- you do not need to take a coronavirus test on day 2 and day 8 after arrival in the UK.
- you do not need to self-isolate, provided your travel to Scotland is in the course of your work. With effect from 4am on 20 March 2021 this is extended to arrivals from acute list countries.

When you are in an acute risk country you should take additional precautions to minimise contact with others.

If you work on a ship, including fishermen, you should show a Seafarer's Identification Document (SID) if you have one.

If you don't have a SID, you can show your joining papers, seafarer's employment agreement or a seafarer's discharge book (Continuous Certificate of Discharge) instead. Alternatively, you could show a basic training certificate or declaration from the registered owners of the vessel that you are a crew member.