

Framework of agreements for seagoing cruise ships

Seagoing cruise ships that berth in the Netherlands must comply with, at a minimum, the following agreements and protocols. This framework was drawn up by:

- the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment
- the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
- the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
- the municipal health services (GGDs) of Rotterdam-Rijnmond, Amsterdam and Kennemerland
- The safety regions Rotterdam-Rijnmond, Amsterdam-Amstelland and Kennemerland
- the Harbour Masters of Rotterdam and Amsterdam
- the Netherlands' cruise ship terminals
- Holland America Line Cruises

The Hague, 23 July 2021.

Protocols:

1. COVID-19: EU Guidance for Cruise Ship Operations by European Maritime Safety Agency (revision 1, May 2021) (<http://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/press-releases/weblink/21/4404/1.html>)
2. Advice for restarting cruise ship operations after lifting restrictive measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (version 2, April 2021) by Healthy Gateways

Any deviation by the terminal from the above protocols must be approved by the safety region/GGD.

General agreements

If the general agreements deviate from the protocols, the general agreements take precedence.

1. Terminals will provide the following information to the safety region at least four weeks prior to the arrival of the ship concerned:
 - a. the expected maximum occupancy (passengers and crew) of the ship
 - b. the maximum capacity of the ship
2. Seagoing cruise ships will provide cooperation in respect of:
 - a. on-board checks of compliance with the agreements drawn up in this document and the generally applicable COVID-19 measures
 - b. Enforcement of stricter measures if warranted by, for example, an increase in COVID-19 incidence in Europe or on

board seagoing cruise ships or the introduction of a new virus variant

3. Seagoing cruise ships that wish to dock in the Netherlands must implement a system to facilitate contact tracing in the event of a case (infection) on board. The ship must be capable of carrying out source and contact tracing
4. Ships must comply, for the duration of their presence in Dutch ports and waters, with the entry and travel restrictions in force at that time

Agreements concerning passengers and crew

1. The maximum passenger occupancy in the first 12 weeks after the date of this document will be 70%. After this period new consultations will be held;
2. A minimum vaccination coverage of 90% applies in respect of all persons on board (crew¹ and passengers). Vaccines must be approved by the EMA/WHO²;

or

A minimum vaccination coverage of 70% applies in respect of all persons on board (crew³ and passengers) while respecting the following test protocol:

- Unvaccinated individuals are tested every 48 hours;
 - Vaccinated individuals are tested twice a week; If the vaccinated individual is not tested before boarding, then at least on day 1 and day 4. If tested before boarding, then day 3, and with a longer lasting cruise also on day 6/7.
3. Passengers and crew members⁴ who are not yet vaccinated and have no certificate of recovery from coronavirus must, in accordance with the Netherlands' entry restrictions, produce a negative PCR test result no older than 72 hours or a negative antigen test result no older than 48 hours prior to boarding;

¹ With due regard for applicable legislation in relation to their status under employment law and working conditions on board ships.

² The vaccines currently approved by the EMA/WHO and recognised by the Netherlands are as follows: Pfizer/BioNTech, AstraZeneca-SK Bio, Serum Institute of India, AstraZeneca EU, Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), Moderna, Sinopharm and Sinovac. The vaccination certificate is valid from two weeks after the date of full vaccination. For vaccination certificate requirements, see: <https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/visiting-the-netherlands-from-abroad/exemptions-to-the-entry-ban/requirements-for-proof-of-vaccination-issued-outside-the-eu>

³ With due regard for applicable legislation in relation to their status under employment law and working conditions on board ships.

⁴ See footnote 1.

4. Passengers and crew members⁵ who are not yet vaccinated and have no certificate of recovery from coronavirus will undergo a supervised PCR or antigen test three days after boarding the ship. After disembarkation on shore during the cruise passengers and crew will additionally undergo a supervised PCR or antigen test every three days;
5. The cruise ship must have capacity to accommodate onboard quarantine and isolation.
6. In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, the GGD will advise on onboard/shore-based quarantine/isolation.
7. If it is decided in consultation with the authorities that shore-based quarantine and isolation is required, the cruise ship operator bears primary responsibility for arranging the onshore location and medical supervision.

⁵ See footnote 1.