

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

The Hague, 25 November 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 3, September 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 set out 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 on capacity, vaccination coverage and/or recovery status and quarantine/isolation

1. The maximum passenger occupancy is unlimited, with due regard for point 2.
2. The cruise ship must have capacity to accommodate on-board quarantine and isolation. The EU Healthy Gateways guidelines apply, which means that a number of cabins (5% of the passenger capacity and 5% of the crew capacity) must be reserved for individual quarantine and isolation.
3. At least 90% of all people on board aged 12 years and over (crew¹ and passengers) must have been vaccinated with vaccines approved by EMA/WHO² or have a certificate of recovery.³
4. In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, the GGD will advise on on-board/shore-based quarantine/isolation.
5. If it is decided in consultation with the authorities that shore-based quarantine and isolation are required, the cruise ship operator bears primary responsibility for arranging the onshore location and medical supervision.

Agreements on persons on board

1. Passengers who are not 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 48 hours or a negative antigen test result no older than 24 hours prior to boarding.
2. Passengers who are vaccinated and have a certificate of recovery from coronavirus must also produce a negative PCR test result no older than 48 hours or a negative antigen test result no older than 24 hours prior to boarding.
3. All passengers will be tested under supervision⁴ three or four days after boarding using a PCR or antigen test. If the cruise lasts seven nights or more, they will be tested under supervision every four days, starting on day three or day four, using a PCR or antigen test.
4. It is urgently recommended to apply this policy also to all crew members

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

² The vaccines must be approved by EMA/WHO and recognised by the Netherlands. The vaccination certificate is valid from two weeks after the date of full vaccination, or from 28 days in the case of the Janssen vaccine. For vaccination certificate requirements, see: [here](#).

³ Demonstrated by a positive test result from a NAAT test performed in the European Union, the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom or a country that has undergone the EU Digital COVID certificate (DCC) equivalence decision procedure and for which an EU implementing act has been adopted. The result must be at least 11 and no more than 180 days old. For more information, see: [here](#).

⁴ All tests must be PCR or antigen tests performed and analysed by a professional party.