

Finland

CMI QUESTIONNAIRE – PANDEMIC RESPONSE – THE EFFECT ON SEAFARERS AND PASSENGERS AT SEA

1. Is your jurisdiction a member of the World Health Organisation?
Yes.
2. Has your jurisdiction given effect under its domestic law to the International Health Regulations (2005)?
Yes, under Act 254/2007. The rules of the Health Regulations have statutory force in the form for which Finland has bonded itself (Source: Valvira.fi).
3. Has your jurisdiction ratified the IMO-MLC 2006 Convention?
Yes, Finland ratified MLC on 9th January 2013 and it entered into force on 9th January 2014.
4. What steps have been taken within your jurisdiction to give effect to the IMO-MLC 2006 Convention?
Changes in EU and national legislation as a consequence of the requirements imposed by MLC 2006. MLC inspections of Finnish ships are carried out by the Regional State Administrative Agencies and the Finnish Transport Safety Agency (Trafi) according to a mutually agreed division of labour.
5. Has your jurisdiction ratified the IMO Facilitation of Maritime Traffic Convention 1965 (FAL Convention)? Yes.
6. What steps have been taken within your jurisdiction to give effect to the FAL Convention?
7. Are you aware if your jurisdiction has denied free pratique to a vessel during any of the following pandemics: Avian flu; SARS; Chikungunya or MERS?
8. Are you aware if your jurisdiction has taken any steps to establish the care capacities identified in Sections A and B of Annex 1 of the International Health Regulations, and in particular a "national public health emergency response plan" in compliance with the International Health Regulations?
On the part of Finland, Valvira names the harbours as required by the Health Regulation that are authorized to issue certificates on sanitation control and on exemption from sanitation control for ships: https://www.valvira.fi/web/en/environmental-health/health_protection/who_health_regulation

Regarding Finland's Social Welfare and Health Care preparedness, please see: <https://www.julkari.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/114809/Es200605eng.pdf?sequence=2>
9. (a) What measures were taken by your jurisdiction during the recent Ebola outbreak?
Please see: <http://stm.fi/en/ebola-virus-disease>
(b) Which Department of State or organisation in your jurisdiction was responsible for implementing those measures during the recent Ebola outbreak?
The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
(c) Were maritime administrations within your jurisdiction consulted in relation to decisions taken within your jurisdiction during the Ebola outbreak?
Yes, probably.
(d) Were those who took decisions in your jurisdiction during the Ebola outbreak aware of the requirements of:
(i) International Health Regulations 2005; and
(ii) The FAL Convention 1965 (As Amended); and
(iii) The ILO MLC 2006 Convention?

(e) Were those making the decisions in your jurisdiction in relation to the Ebola outbreak aware of the potential conflict in the requirements between those Regulations and Conventions?

