

**Responses to questionnaire
related to “Pandemic Response – The Effect on Seafarers and Passengers
at Sea”**

(ref. letter of President of CMI of 30 September 2015)

1. *Is your jurisdiction a member of the World Health Organisation (WHO)?*

ANSWER:

Yes, starting from 1948.

2. *Has your jurisdiction given effect under its domestic law to the International Health Regulations (2005)?*

ANSWER:

Yes. These Regulations have been implemented into the national legislation of Ukraine by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine by the Resolution № 893 dd. 22.08.2011 which has approved “Rules of Sanitary Protection of the Territory of Ukraine”.

Fulfilment of tasks related to sanitary protection of the state border in accordance with the legislation of Ukraine is entrusted to the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of Ukraine. The structure of the Service includes sanitary-quarantine units that provide medical-sanitary control at the points of passage through the state border by means of organizational, sanitary-hygienic, medical-preventive and anti-epidemic measures in case of the emergence of diseases of international importance, conduct medical (sanitary) inspection of passengers, vehicles, luggage, and cargo.

3. *Has your jurisdiction ratified the IMO-MLC 2006 Convention?*

ANSWER:

No, but this convention is being discussed.

4. *What steps have been taken within your jurisdiction to give effect to the IMO-MLC 2006 Convention?*

ANSWER:

Not applicable.

5. *Has your jurisdiction ratified the IMO Facilitation of Maritime Traffic Convention 1965 (FAL Convention)?*

ANSWER:

Yes. Ukraine has acceded to this Convention (as amended in 1975 and with amendments in 1969, 1977, 1986, and 1990 to its annex) in 1993 by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine № 775 dd. 21.09.1993. The Convention entered into force for Ukraine on 24.12.1993.

6. *What steps have been taken within your jurisdiction to give effect to the FAL Convention?*

ANSWER:

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has adopted the Resolution of № 775 dd. 21.09.1993. The Convention entered into force for Ukraine on 24.12.1993

7. Are you aware if your jurisdiction has denied free practice to a vessel during any of the following pandemics: Avian flu; SARS, Chikungunya or MERS?

ANSWER:

Ukraine has not denied free practice to vessels except for temporary denial for mv WESTERN COPENHAGEN, which in September 2014 proceeded from the port of Conakry (Guinea) to the port of the Dnieper-Bug. On board the vessel there was a sickly member of the crew with signs of an illness caused by the Ebola virus, who was taken off at the port of Pozzalo (Italy, Sicily) and hospitalized in one of the medical institutions in Italy.

At the same time this information is under update and we will provide more accurate information for the last 24 months in the nearest time, if there are any changes.

8. Are you aware if your jurisdiction has taken any steps to establish the care capacities identified in Section 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?

ANSWER:

No

9. (a) What measures were taken by your jurisdiction during the recent Ebola outbreak?

ANSWER:

According to the information received from the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (hereinafter – “**the MHU**”), the following measures were taken:

- 1) In preparation for the response to the spread of the Ebola virus in West Africa, the MHU adopted the Order dated October 24, 2014, No. 770 "On the organization of events in case of the detection of an afflicted person (suspected) for the disease caused by the Ebola virus". The MHU was given appropriate instructions to the heads of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of Ukraine (hereinafter – “**the SSES**”), structural units for health care of regional (city) state administrations.
- 2) The SSES issued the Resolution dated August 21, 2014, No. 12 "On the strengthening of the state sanitary and epidemiological surveillance in connection with the complication of the epidemiological situation with the disease caused by the Ebola virus (XBBE) in West African countries, and the possibility of its spread in the world", which identified a set of measures for the prevention of the XCBE.
- 3) The joint meeting of National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, the MHU, and the SSES was held on October 24, 2014 with the adoption of the decision No. 10/1 "On urgent measures on prevention and dissemination in Ukraine of the disease caused by the Ebola virus". This decision is aimed at ensuring of the implementation of measures to prevent the importation and spread to Ukraine of the disease caused by Ebola.
- 4) A sincere educational work on individual and general prevention of Ebola virus was activated, more than 100 sanitary bulletins were issued, television and radio appearances were prepared and conducted. Official web-sites of the MHU and the SSES hosted a public memorial for the prevention

of Ebola virus, and regularly updated data on the epidemic situation in the world.

- 5) Informational messages were sent to the network of subordinate institutions regarding the need for increased control of ships, crew members, and passengers at the state border arriving from countries where cases of Ebola were registered; Ebola prevention memos (in Ukrainian and English) and questionnaires for crews and passengers were developed and distributed to all foreign ships arriving to Ukrainian ports.
- 6) An appropriate recommendations for the prevention of Ebola virus were sent to organizations for employment of seafarers for work on foreign vessels (crewing agencies); sanitary and educational work was carried out among port workers and population; at the border crossing points surveillance information was provided; information letters were prepared and sent to the heads of sea and river ports open for international communications, as well as information letters were sent to the heads of inspection services in ports (border service, customs, port supervision and pilots), ambulance services in ports, sea agents, Ukrainian carriers.

Appropriate orders with the request to provide additional information to the sanitary-quarantine units at international sea and river crossing points before the ship enters the port and directly during the medical (sanitary) inspection of the vessel were sent to marine agents.

Also appropriate instructions were sent to the heads of the passenger shipping companies "Ukrferry" and "Viking cruise", whose vessels are engaged in carriage of passenger between Ukrainian and foreign ports to take measures for the active detection of patients (suspected) for the Ebola virus and strengthening the anti-epidemic regime on ships.

- 7) Letters and regulations concerning the procedure of actions and the prevention of cases of diseases of international importance among crews, tourists, etc. were sent to enterprises that carried out operational activities on sea transport (ports, shipowners, marine and crewing agencies).
- 8) The MHU, in conjunction with other central executive authorities, in November 2014 in Odessa, arranged training for personnel of control services at international sea and river crossing points, which additionally included the development of the skills of using personal protective equipment and the sequence of actions performed by them in their performance of duties in case of detecting a patient (suspect) with signs of XCBE on board. Quarantine care and medical (sanitary) inspection were intensified on all vessels arriving at the sea and river ports of the country, which were conducted prior to other types of control (border, customs, etc.).
- 9) In order to develop practical skills in conducting anti-epidemic measures in identifying patients with XCBE, the regional offices of the SSES in all regions and in transport modes conducted training sessions on the elimination of the conditional hearth of XCBE, and worked out the schemes for the detection of persons suspected of the disease XCBE.
- 10) A new procedure for the activities of specialists of sanitary-quarantine departments during quarantine care and medical (sanitary) inspection of ships in ports of Ukraine was developed and implemented.

The mandatory thermometry for crew members, analysis of the epidemic situation on the voyage, etc. were ensured. A complex of laboratory research (washing, food, water, sewage water after cleaning and disinfection equipment, ballast water) was carried out.

The supervision of the removal of sewage and garbage from vessels to coastal reception facilities and specialized collection vessels was intensified.

For all foreign vessels that arrived on the territory of Ukraine, emergency instructions were arranged for administration of the vessels regarding the main symptoms of XCBE, an algorithm for detecting a patient (suspect) on XCBE.

A daily monitoring of the epidemiological situation on ships that were under cargo handling operations at berths at sea and river ports was introduced.

In the territories of cargo and passenger terminals of international sea and river crossing points, the disinfection regime was strengthened.

Instructions were given to members of the crews of the port fleet vessels involved in servicing the

vessels arriving to the port.

- 11) Under the auspices of the Public Agency “Ukrainian Research Anti-Plague Institute n.a. I.I. Mechnikov of the MHU” training “Organization and carrying out of epidemic prevention measures in identifying patient (suspected) for the disease caused by the Ebola virus” were delivered. Experts of sanitary and quarantine departments had additional training on especially dangerous infectious disease of viral etiology that are of international importance in order to perfect practical skills.
- 12) The necessary amount of protective clothing, respiratory protection, disinfectants, etc. were purchased within the existing budget to create the necessary supply for ensuring the readiness of Ukraine and SSES for the preventive measures.

(b) Which Department of State or organisation in your jurisdiction was responsible for implementing those measures during the recent Ebola outbreak?

ANSWER:

Mainly it is the MHU and the SSES.

(c) Were maritime administrations within your jurisdiction consulted in relation to decisions taken within your jurisdiction during the Ebola outbreak?

ANSWER:

Yes.

(d) Were those who take decisions in your jurisdiction during the Ebola outbreak aware of the requirement of:

- (i) International Health Regulations 2005; and***
- (ii) the FAL Convention 1965 (as amended); and***
- (iii) the ILO IMO 2006 Convention?***

ANSWER:

Deputy Minister of the MHU and the Head of the SSES.

(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?

ANSWER:

Deputy Minister of the MHU and the Head of the SSES together with interagency working group, established by the order of the MHU dated December 26, 2016, under No. 1018.