

# MEMBER ALERT



Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Manager  
One Battery Park Plaza 31<sup>st</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10004 USA  
Tel: +1 212 847 4500  
Fax: +1 212 847 4599

[www.american-club.com](http://www.american-club.com)

**MARCH 22, 2016**

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS DIRECTLY CALLING AT PORTS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) FROM ZIKA VIRUS AFFECTED COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES**

Reference is made to [Circular No. 06/16](#), *The Zika Virus*, which notifies Members of the risks associated with this *Aedes* mosquito borne disease. It has been brought to your Managers' attention that, as part of the PRC government's enhanced efforts to prevent entry of Zika Virus-carrying mosquitos into the country, the Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau ("CIQ") has issued new control requirements in their "*Notice on Prevention and Control of Zika Virus into China*" dated March 2, 2016.

### **Requirements for seafarers**

According to the Notice, seafarers suffering from fever, headache, muscle and joint pain or rash who have visited the countries or territories where Zika Virus infection cases have been reported shall declare their condition to the CIQ before either entering or leaving the country. Furthermore, seafarers are requested to fully cooperate with local CIQ in their efforts of detect elevated temperature or fever, implement medical check-ups and any epidemiological investigations.

### **Requirements for vessels**

Ships, transport vehicles and containers directly calling the PRC from a Zika Virus affected country or territory, are required to take effective measures to eradicate Zika Virus-carrying mosquitoes. Strict quarantine inspections are taken for transportation vehicles, cargo, containers, luggage and postal parcels from those countries and areas.

Shipowners are requested to acquire a mosquito eradication certificate (MEC) for the vessel issued by the authorities of the affected countries. According to CIQ, the MEC should be issued either by local authorities or by third party disinfection companies at Zika affected areas. The certificate should include:

- (1) vessel's details (vessel's name, port of destination, cargo on board, time of loading etc.); and
- (2) a description to the effect that the certificate is evidence that the subject vessel was disinfected against mosquitos before departure.

If a vessel is not able to obtain the MEC from local authorities in Zika affected areas, the local CIQ in the PRC will require mosquito eradication measures be taken on board. In addition, whether the mosquito eradication measures still need to be taken for vessels with a MEC shall depend on whether mosquitos were found during CIQ officers' on board inspection.

If mosquito eradication onboard the vessel is deemed necessary, the local CIQ will appoint a fumigation company to spray disinfectant throughout the vessel's living quarters. This normally takes approximately four hours in total (two hours for spraying disinfectant plus two hours for its

# MEMBER ALERT



Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Manager  
One Battery Park Plaza 31<sup>st</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10004 USA  
Tel: +1 212 847 4500  
Fax: +1 212 847 4599

[www.american-club.com](http://www.american-club.com)

volatilization). It is a normal practice for fumigant companies to charge approximately RMB 0.05/GT although the cost may vary from port to port.

The eradication operation can be conducted at berth in some ports, while at some other ports, the CIQ advises the vessel can only get berthed after eradication, if eradication is found to be necessary.

## **Affected Areas**

A list of countries and territories with active Zika Virus transmissions can be found at the US Center of Disease Control and Prevention website at

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/active-countries.html>

As a precaution, if a Members vessel is bound for any PRC ports, the local agent should be contacted at the inbound port to verify if an MEC is required prior to the vessel's arrival.

Those countries and territories noted by the CIQ to be affected by the Zika Virus and requiring MECs are listed below. The list below is subject to revision as the epidemic situation develops. In case any other countries or territories report Zika Virus cases after issuance of this notice, the same requirements as set out above shall apply.

### Americas

Aruba, Bonaire, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Costa Rica, Curacao, Dominica, Ecuador, Salvador, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Saint Martin, St. Maarten, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Surinam, Trinidad & Tobago, United States Virgin Islands, and Venezuela.

### Oceania

American Samoa, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

### Asia

Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, the Philippines and Thailand.

### Africa

Cape Verde and Gabon.

## **Implementation by local CIQ offices**

It has been noted that the inspection procedures at different ports may vary. For example, ports such as Dalian, Xiamen, Guangzhou and Fuzhou, the MECs shall be presented during port entry formalities; otherwise, local CIQ will require mosquito eradication measures to be conducted on board under their supervision.

# **MEMBER ALERT**



Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Manager  
One Battery Park Plaza 31<sup>st</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10004 USA  
Tel: +1 212 847 4500  
Fax: +1 212 847 4599

[www.american-club.com](http://www.american-club.com)

Meanwhile, at other ports such as Tianjin, an MEC is not a necessity for port entry formalities, but vessels are still subject to inspection and investigation by local CIQ officers to check if there are mosquitos, larvae or mosquito eggs on board.

## **Recommendations**

Vessels that sail from ports in the affected countries or territories to the PRC are recommended to obtain an MEC issued by relevant authorities of the affected country if possible, so as to avoid any possible delay or trouble when calling at ports in the PRC. In case no such certificate has been obtained, vessels are urged to cooperate with local CIQ on their inspection or disinfection actions.

## **The American Club website section on infectious diseases**

Members are asked to note that all updates on the status of the Zika Virus outbreak will be posted on the Club's website at:

[http://www.american-club.com/page/infectious\\_diseases](http://www.american-club.com/page/infectious_diseases)

This site also includes information on the Ebola virus disease, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus, and malaria. Updates on infectious disease outbreaks, any port and immigration requirements for seafarers or passengers, and all other relevant preventative guidance, will be posted to this section of the Club's website as information is made available to your Managers.

*Your Managers thank Club Correspondents, Huatai Insurance Agency & Consultant Services, Ltd., for this update.*