

## Protocols for technical calls and warm/hot layups at the Ports (10.9.20)

In response to the current coronavirus pandemic and to protect the citizenry, several measures affecting the operations at the sea ports were implemented. These include the suspension of calls by international vessels exclusive of cargo vessels. Cruise ships and Mega yachts were also suspended. The demand exists for the accommodation of Cruise ships and Mega yachts for technical calls and warm layovers. Vessels would be expected to pay for these services.

Technical Call: A technical call implies that a vessel would be allowed practice of short duration, from several hours to three days. A technical call allows a ship to refuel or restock and would be for a short duration during which time there is no contact between people dockside and from the ship.

Hot/Warm Layup: A warm or hot layup allows a vessel to be docked for longer periods of time, in some instances up to a year. During this time the vessel is out of service but can be mobilized into service at a short notice. Warm layup entails a reduced level of crewing and assumes a reduction in regular fuel consumption, repairs/maintenance costs, shore side salaries and benefits and advertising and promotions.

Both Cruise Ships and Mega yachts would be acceptable vessels to be considered for Technical Calls or Warm Layups. All cruise and mega yacht vessels entering the territory must be directed to the Cruise Pier or Port Purcell for screening and clearance processing.

### **Rationale**

To set out the protocol for technical calls and hot/warm layups at the Cruise Pier during a pandemic and shall replace all normal operating procedures until such time as the HEOC advises otherwise and the return to normal operating procedures is re-established by the BVI Ports Authority.

### **Documentation**

The usual pre arrival documents must be submitted to the relevant agencies:

<b>Documentation</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Time frame</b>
Maritime Health Declaration	Environmental Health Division	no later than 72 hours prior to arrival
1. Maritime Health Declaration (the master of the ship or medical doctor onboard ship must sign this document) 2. Ship Sanitation certificate when applicable 3. Crew List 4. List of all port of calls 5. Vaccination Certificate where applicable	BVI Ports Authority and Environmental Health Division	Documents must be submitted upon arrival
The Agent must provide notice of arrival		minimum of forty-eight (48) hours before arrival

### **Approved Technical Call and Warm Layup Services**

1. Provisioning- may be conducted using contactless arrangements
2. Replenishing fuel and water supply- Conducted using contactless arrangements
3. Waste disposal
  - a. Sewerage – Ships must have advanced sewerage treatment systems onboard and well treated sewerage may be disposed of out of BVI waters.
  - b. Solid Waste- Currently there is no capacity to accept waste from ships for management (Ref MARPOL 73/78)

The Agent shall notify the BVI Ports Authority by email of any changes in services requested by the vessel at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance.

### **Vessel Arrival**

Once a vessel is at the berth and there are no public health concerns, the normal process of clearance shall prevail unless where other direction is provided for under special circumstances and the Law. All usual protocols will be followed utilizing a contactless approach and established public health procedures including personal protective equipment.

### **Notice of an ill Crew Member while the Vessel is berthed**

1. The Agent/Master shall notify the BVI Ports Authority and the BVI Health Services Authority, who will provide direction as to the management of the situation.
2. The BVI Ports Authority will cordon off/secure the berth area and if deemed necessary move other vessels that may be berthed in proximity.
3. The Department of Environmental Health, HM Customs, and the BVI Ports Authority together will make a decision on what will happen with the vessel's services request following the report of an ill crew.

### **The BVI Ports Authority will:**

Ensure 24 hour security at the Cruise Pier or Port Purcell and that the secured pier area is monitored for the duration of the vessel call.

Adhere to all cleaning/ disinfection and public health protocols including the appropriate wearing of PPEs by all staff and visitors to the ports.

Adhere to all general health guidelines including the protocols on handling of ill staff or visitor to the premises.