# UK Covid-19 pandemic crewing guidelines

GAC Services (UK) Ltd – Shipping Department

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# 1.   Specific four nations guidelines

Detailed below is guidance for each UK nation, covering all latest general travel arrival and departure rules and regulations which have been implemented due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For each regulation (self-isolation, managed isolation, passenger locator forms, and pre departure Covid testing), it is important to note there are exemptions for each category, and each country slightly differs in relation to its current seafarer / key worker exemption rules.  Please ensure to check all latest guidance on UK Government sites thoroughly, the rules and regulations are being constantly changed and updated and this document is for guidance purposes only.

From the 30th November 2021 there were new rules relating to travel to and from the United Kingdom and specifically on testing requirements on arrival to the UK. At present, under the guidance on the Government websites, this will not adversely affect any of the present job/sectoral exemptions that are currently in place for work purposes, such as those for seafarers.

**All of the guidelines below have been updated to reflect the new rules that come into effect from the 30th November 2021.**

If a person travels to **Scotland** from anywhere outside of the UK or Republic of Ireland, the country will be classified in two different levels. The requirements for what to do on arrival will vary based on the country or countries you are arriving from and/or travelling through (important to note that exemptions that have been in place for all arrivals are still in place).

Red List Arrivals:
- If you have been in a country or area on the red list at any point in the 10 days before arriving in Scotland, you will only be allowed to enter the UK if you are a British or Irish National, you have the right to remain in the UK, or you have a job exemption that allows you to arrive (see exemptions):
    o You will be required to complete a passenger locator form
    o You must have taken and have proof of a negative COVID-19 test before arrival. This must have been taken no earlier than 72 hours before arrival to Scotland.
    o You must book into managed isolation including 2 COVID tests via the Government website.
- You must follow these rules even if you have been vaccinated.

## Non Red List Arrivals

- You are allowed to travel to and from a country that is not on the Red list for work and also for leisure (which is not permitted with red list Countries) but you must follow the below measures if travelling which differ for those that are vaccinated and unvaccinated (below may differ for certain job/sectoral exemptions):

- If you have been vaccinated in an approved country that qualifies under vaccination status:
    o You will be required to complete a passenger locator form and declared on the form that you are fully vaccinated.
    o You must show proof of your vaccination status with you to show while you travel.
    o You must pre book a day 2 PCR COVID testing kit from the list of private providers and undertake these tests after arrival.
    o You will be required to self-isolate until you receive a negative result back from this test.
        ▪ If your result comes back positive, you must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of your positive test result.

- If you have not been fully vaccinated in an approved country that qualifies:
    o You will be required to complete a passenger locator form
    o You must have a taken and have proof of a negative COVID-19 test before arrival. This must have been taken no earlier than 72 hours before arrival to Scotland.
    o You must pre book a day 2 and day 8 PCR COVID testing kit from the list of private providers and undertake these tests after arrival.
    o You will need to self-isolate for 10 days from arrival in the place you are staying or at home.

*\*\*In Scotland seafarers are exempt (unless working on a cruise ship) from self-isolation and pre-departure Covid testing if they are travelling to Scotland to work in the common travel area from any country. They are exempt from completing the passenger locator form if they travel and arrive to Scotland on a part of a vessel, or a vessel, that does not carry passengers, but they must fill in the passenger locator form if arriving to the UK by air. As of 0400 on 20th March 2021 seafarers of all nationalities are exempt from managed isolation even if arriving from a red list country. They do not require a pre-departure Covid test under this new exemption, however some airlines / countries may insist on pre-departure covid test before boarding so you must check with local travel agent /airline before booking / boarding flight.*

**Please note as of 27th March 2021 returning to Scotland for a period of leave from working on a vessel overseas no longer qualifies as 'travelling for work'. These seafarers must follow the general rules for travel to the UK and enter managed isolation on arrival to Scotland if arriving from a red list country and will require pre departure COVID tests, unless signing off from a vessel port calling in the UK where they will remain exempt.**

If a person travels to **England** from anywhere outside of the UK or Republic of Ireland, the country will be classified in two different levels and requirements for what to do on arrival will vary based on the country or countries you are arriving from and/or travelling through (important to note that exemptions that have been in place for all arrivals are still in place).

Red List Arrivals:
- If you have been in a country or area on the red list at any point in the 10 days before arriving in England, you will only be allowed to enter the UK if you are a British or Irish National, you have residency rights, or you have the right exemption to arrive in the UK due to your job (see exemptions):
    o You will be required to complete a passenger locator form
    o You must have taken and have proof of a negative COVID-19 test before arrival. This must have been taken no earlier than 72 hours before arrival to England.
    o You must pre-book into a Quarantine hotel along with 2 COVID tests via the Government Quarantine hotel website.
- You must follow these rules even if you have been vaccinated.

Non Red List Arrivals
- You are allowed to travel to and from a country that is not on the Red list for work and also for leisure (which is not permitted with red list Countries) but you must follow the below measures if travelling which differ for those that are vaccinated and unvaccinated (below may differ for certain job/sectoral exemptions):

- If you have been vaccinated in an approved country that qualifies under vaccination status:
    o You will be required to complete a passenger locator form and declare within this form that you have been fully vaccinated.
    o Show proof of your vaccination status to your carrier (ferry, airline or train) when you travel.
    o You must pre book a day 2 PCR COVID testing kit from an approved private provider (you must not book this through any other means as test results will not be accepted) and undertake these tests after arrival.
        ▪ You must quarantine at home or in the place you are staying until you receive a negative result from this test
        ▪ If your result comes back positive, you must quarantine for 10 days from the date of your positive test result.
        ▪ If you are to be in England for less than 2 days, you still need to pre book and pay for a test. You must quarantine until you receive a negative day 2 COVID-19 PCR test, or until you leave England, whichever is sooner.

- If you have not been fully vaccinated in an approved country that qualifies:
    o You will be required to complete a passenger locator form
    o You must have taken and have proof of a negative COVID-19 test before arrival. This must have been taken no earlier than 72 hours before arrival to England.

- You must pre book a day 2 and day 8 PCR COVID testing kit from an approved private provider (you must not book this through any other means as test results will not be accepted) and undertake these tests after arrival.
- You must quarantine at home or in the place you are staying for 10 days after arrival.
  - If you are in England for less than 10 days, you need to quarantine for the time you are here. You need to book day 2 and day 8 travel tests. You only need to take the tests if you are still in England on those days.
- You may be able to end quarantine early if you pay for a private COVID-19 test through the 'Test to Release' scheme.

*\*\*In England seafarers are exempt that are fully vaccinated from self-isolation and pre departure COVID testing, but must undertake a LFD test on or before day 2 of arrival to England if not departing beforehand, if arriving from a non-red list country. If the seafarer is not fully vaccinated, then they must take an LFD test on days 2,5 and 8 after arrival to England if not departing beforehand. They are also exempt from self-isolation if they live in the UK: they are also exempt when returning home from work overseas (self-isolation must be undertaken if not travelling directly to vessel for non UK residents. All seafarers are exempt from completing the passenger locator form if they arrive and travel on a part of a vessel or a vessel that does not carry passengers. If arriving to the UK by air a passenger locator form must be completed. For seafarers arriving from red list countries they are exempt from managed quarantine, however if they are not UK residents they will have to self-isolate in the place they are staying until undertaking the exempt activity (joining the vessel). If in England longer than 2 days LFD tests must be undertaken on days 2,5 and 8. If you are travelling to the UK to work on a cruise ship or are returning to the UK from working on a cruise ship, and have been in a red listed country in the last 10 days, you need to quarantine in a government approved hotel and take a COVID-19 test on day 2 and day 8. Cruise ship workers cannot leave quarantine to work until the full 10 days of quarantine has been completed.*

If a person travels to **Wales** from anywhere outside of the UK or Republic of Ireland, the country will be classified in two different levels. The requirements on what to do on arrival will vary based on the country or countries you are arriving from, and/or travelling through (important to note that previous exemptions for all arrivals are still in place).

Red List Arrivals:
- If you have been in a country or area on the red list at any point in the 10 days before arriving in Wales, you will only be allowed to enter the UK if you are a British or Irish National, you have the right to remain in the UK, or you have a job exemption that allows you to arrive (see exemptions):
  - You will be required to complete a passenger locator form
  - You must have taken and have proof of a negative COVID-19 test before arrival. This must have been taken no earlier than 72 hours before arrival to Wales.
  - You must book into Managed Quarantine via the Government website.

- o Book and take a coronavirus (COVID-19) test on or before day 2 and on or after day 8 of quarantining (everyone aged 5 and above).
- You must follow these rules even if you have been vaccinated.
- There is no Test to Release Scheme in Wales so negative tests taken in England do not avoid or reduce the period of isolation required in Wales.


Non Red List Arrivals
- You are allowed to travel to and from a country that is not on the Red list for work and also for leisure (which is not permitted with red list Countries) but you must follow the below measures if travelling which differ for those that are vaccinated and unvaccinated (below may differ for certain job/sectoral exemptions):

- If you have been vaccinated in an approved country that qualifies under vaccination status:
    - o You will be required to complete a passenger locator form and declare on the Passenger locator form that you are fully vaccinated in the UK.
    - o You must show proof of your vaccination status from the NHS.
    - o You must pre book a day 2 PCR COVID testing kit from the list of private providers and undertake these tests after arrival.
    - o You will be required to self-isolate until you receive a negative result back from this test.
        - ▪ If your result comes back positive, you must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of your positive test result.

- If you have not been fully vaccinated in an approved country that qualifies:
    - o You will be required to complete a passenger locator form
    - o You must have taken and have proof of a negative COVID-19 test before arrival. This must have been taken no earlier than 72 hours before arrival to Wales.
    - o You must pre book a day 2 and day 8 PCR COVID testing kit from the list of private providers and undertake these tests after arrival.
    - o You must self-isolate at home or in the place you are staying for 10 days after arrival.
- There is no Test to Release Scheme in Wales so negative tests taken in England do not avoid or reduce the period of isolation required in Wales.

*\*In Wales seafarers are exempt from self-Isolation if they live in the UK, they are also exempt when returning home from work overseas (self-isolation must be undertaken if not travelling directly to vessel for non UK residents), and pre-departure Covid Testing. Seafarers are not exempt from completing the passenger locator form. Although exempt from Isolation from Red list countries and do not require a pre-departure Covid test under the exemptions, some airlines / countries may insist on pre-departure covid test before boarding so you must check with local travel agent / airline before booking / boarding flight. Seafarers arriving to Wales from a red listed country are not exempt from post arrival testing and must follow rules on same.*

If a person travels to **Northern Ireland** from anywhere outside of the UK or Republic of Ireland, the country will be classified in two different levels. The requirements for what to do on arrival will vary based on the country or countries you are arriving from and/or travelling through (important to note that exemptions that have been in place for all arrivals are still in place).

Red List Arrivals:
- If you have been in a country or area on the red list at any point in the 10 days before arriving in Northern Ireland, you will only be allowed to enter the UK if you are a British or Irish National, you have the right to remain in the UK, or you have a job exemption that allows you to arrive (see exemptions):
  o You will be required to complete a passenger locator form
  o You must have taken and have proof of a negative COVID-19 test before arrival. This must have been taken no earlier than 72 hours before arrival to Northern Ireland.
  o You must book into Managed Quarantine via the Government website.
  o As part of managed Quarantine you must take a COVID test on or before day 2 and on or after day 8 of quarantining (everyone aged 5 and above).
- You must follow these rules even if you have been vaccinated.
- There is no Test to Release Scheme in Northern Ireland so negative tests taken in England do not avoid or reduce the period of isolation required in Northern Ireland.


Non Red List Arrivals
- You are allowed to travel to and from a country that is not on the Red list for work and also for leisure (which is not permitted with red list Countries) but you must follow the below measures if travelling which differ for those that are vaccinated and unvaccinated (below may differ for certain job/sectoral exemptions):

  o If you have been vaccinated in an approved country that qualifies under vaccination status:
  o You will be required to complete a passenger locator form and declare on the form that you have been fully vaccinated in the UK.
  o You will need to provide proof of your vaccination from the NHS.
  o You must pre book a day 2 PCR COVID testing kit from an approved Private test provider (you must not book this through any other means as test results will not be accepted) and undertake these tests after arrival.
  o You will be required to self-isolate until you receive a negative result back from this test.
    ▪ If your result comes back positive, you must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of your positive test result.

- If you have not been fully vaccinated in an approved country that qualifies:
  o You will be required to complete a passenger locator form
  o You must have taken and have proof of a negative COVID-19 test before arrival. This must have been taken no earlier than 72 hours before arrival to Northern Ireland.

- o You must pre book a day 2 and 8 COVID testing kit from an approved Private test provider (you must not book this through any other means as test results will not be accepted) and undertake these tests after arrival.
  - o You must self-isolate at home or in the place you are staying for 10 days after arrival.
- There is no Test to Release Scheme in Northern Ireland so negative tests taken in England do not avoid or reduce the period of isolation required in Northern Ireland.

*\*\*In Northern Ireland fully vaccinated seafarers are exempt from self-isolation and pre departure COVID testing, but must undertake a LFD test on or before day 2 of arrival to Northern Ireland. If the seafarer is not fully vaccinated, then they must take and LFD test on days 2,5 and 8 after arrival to England if not departing beforehand. They are also exempt from self-isolation if they live in the UK, and are also exempt when returning home from work overseas (self-isolation must be undertaken if not travelling directly to vessel for non UK residents. All seafarers are exempt from completing the passenger locator form if they arrive and travel on a part of a vessel or a vessel that does not carry passengers. If arriving to the UK by air a passenger locator form must be completed. For seafarers arriving from red list countries they must complete a passenger locator form and provide proof of a negative COVID test taken up to 3 days before departure to the UK. They are exempt from managed quarantine, however if they are not UK residents will have to self-isolate in the place they are staying until undertaking the exempt activity (joining the vessel). If in Northern Ireland longer than 2 days LFD tests must be undertaken on days 2,5 and 8.*

The full list of exemptions for each nation are detailed in the following links: **England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland**

For **red list arrivals** they must arrive to a designated port of entry (airport) as first port of entry to UK if passenger has been in a red listed country and these are below.

|  |  |
|---|---|
| **Scotland:** | Can arrive to any airport. |
| **England:** | Heathrow, Gatwick, London City, Birmingham, Bristol, Newcastle, Farnborough and Biggin Hill Airports. |
| **Wales:** | Must arrive firstly to a designated port of entry in either England or Scotland. |
| **Northern Ireland:** | Belfast International, Belfast City or any military airport/port. |

It is important for each home nation that you are keeping a close eye on any changes to countries that are on the list. Even for transiting a country airside this classifies as having been in that country unless your flight lands, no one gets on or off the plane and it departs as is. As soon as you change a flight or board new passengers you are classified as having been in that country.

From 0400 on 19th March 2021 in England/Northern Ireland and at 0400 on 20th March 2021 in Scotland and Wales, seafarers can now arrive to the UK from the red list of countries and would be exempt from enforced quarantine or managed isolation. We would strongly recommend checking with travel agent before travel and advising local GAC ship agency in UK so they can liaise with Border Force re any crew arriving from a red list country to ensure as smooth a passage as possible.

Latest related links to travel ban/traffic light lists**: Scotland Acute at Risk list, England Red List, Wales Red list** & **Northern Ireland Red list**

# 2. Gibraltar

The latest rules on travel to and from Gibraltar during the COVID-19 Pandemic can be found here.
In short Seafarers are exempt and thus allowed to arrive into Gibraltar to join or disembark a vessel provided they satisfy immigration on the below points:

- is a seafarer who is on transit to a vessel which is berthed or at anchor within British Gibraltar Territorial Waters;
- holds a valid seafarer's book; and
- has a letter of guarantee from a shipping agent registered in Gibraltar.

Passenger locator forms must be completed by **ALL** passengers arriving to Gibraltar by air.

For general population arrivals to Gibraltar depending on whether they have been vaccinated or not and also whether they are arriving from a Red listed country different rules will apply which can be found here.

For Seafarers there are exemptions to the general rules which can all be found here Below is a brief summary but please ensure to check the link for the latest guidance:

If arriving from Spain:

- If travelling from Spain, having been there for the previous 10 days, without symptoms nor a positive COVID19 test, no special requirements apply. If symptoms that could be COVID-19 have been experienced, the shipping agent and/or crew member must report it to the Captain of the Port.

If arriving from a non-red Listed Country and are fully vaccinated under and approved countries vaccination scheme:

- You will be required to upload your valid vaccination certificate on the Gibraltar Passenger Locator Form. You should also be prepared to present your valid vaccination certificate to airline staff prior to boarding.

- You will be required to book and pay for your COVID-19 Lateral Flow Test before arriving in Gibraltar by visiting https://www.covidrapidtest.gi.
- You must be prepared to present your valid vaccination certificate on your arrival in Gibraltar.
- Once in Gibraltar, you will be required to take a COVID-19 Lateral Flow Test within 24 hours of your arrival in Gibraltar.
- If your COVID-19 test proves positive, the Contact Tracing Bureau will issue you with further instructions.
- You may be required to self-isolate if the Contact Tracing Bureau informs you that you been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- If you develop symptoms or feel unwell call 111 immediately even if you have been swabbed. If calling from an international number, you must dial (+350) 20072266 and asked to be transferred to 111.

If arriving from a non-Red Listed Country and are fully vaccinated under an approved countries vaccination scheme:

- You will be required to buy a COVID-19 test and take this test within 48 hours of your arrival into Gibraltar. See Annex B for further details.
- You will be required to book and pay for your COVID-19 Lateral Flow Test before arriving in Gibraltar by visiting https://www.covidrapidtest.gi.
- Once in Gibraltar, you will be required to take a COVID-19 Lateral Flow Test within 24 hours of your arrival in Gibraltar.
- If your COVID-19 test proves positive, the Contact Tracing Bureau will issue you with further instructions.
- You may be required to self-isolate if the Contact Tracing Bureau informs you that you been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- If you develop symptoms or feel unwell call 111 immediately even if you have been swabbed. If calling from an international number, you must dial (+350) 20072266 and asked to be transferred to 111.

If arriving from a Red Listed Country:

- If arriving by air you will be required to buy a pre-departure COVID-19 test and take this test within 48 hours of your arrival into Gibraltar. See Annex B for further details.
- Air passengers will be required to upload a valid vaccination certificate on the Gibraltar Passenger Locator Form. You should also be prepared to present your valid vaccination certificate to airline staff prior to boarding.
- You will be required to book your COVID-19 PCR tests before arriving in Gibraltar.
  - If you are registered with the Gibraltar Health Authority (GHA) you must call (+350) 20041818 to arrange your COVID-19 PCR Tests.
  - If you are not registered with the GHA you will be required to contact a private test provider to arrange your COVID-19 PCR tests. A list of approved private tests providers can be found on https://www.visitgibraltar.gi/covid-19. You must consent to the private test provider advising 111 of your result.

- You must report the fact that you have been to a country or territory in the Red List to an officer of the Borders and Coastguard Agency.
- You must be prepared to present your valid vaccination certificate on your arrival in Gibraltar.
- Once in Gibraltar, you will be required to take a COVID-19 PCR test on the day of your arrival and on Day 5.
- If any COVID-19 test proves positive, the Contact Tracing Bureau will issue you with further instructions.
- You may be required to self-isolate if the Contact Tracing Bureau informs you that you been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- If you develop symptoms or feel unwell call 111 immediately even if you have been swabbed. If calling from an international number, you must dial (+350) 20072266 and asked to be transferred to 111.

# 3.    Passenger Locator Forms

According to the latest guidelines seafarers arriving to **England, Scotland and Northern Ireland** need to complete the passenger locator form before travelling to the UK, if they travel in a part of the vessel that is accessible to any passenger for any part of the journey or if they are arriving to the UK by air.

You do not need to complete the passenger locator form if you arrive and travel in a part of the vessel that is not accessible to passengers or you travel on a vessel that does not carry passengers, for example, fishing boats.

If travelling to / from **Wales,** you must complete the passenger locator form as seafarers are not exempt from this requirement.

We have seen a few instances recently when local Border Forces have requested the forms for off-signing marine and project crew so it may be recommendable to continue to complete passenger locator forms **for both arrival/departure UK by air** to avoid any possible delays/fines.

# 4.    Pre-departure Covid-19 test

If a Pre departure COVID test is required for arrival to the UK, then the test must:
- meet performance standards of ≥97% specificity, ≥80% sensitivity at viral loads above 100,000 copies/ml
- this could include tests such as:
  - a nucleic acid test, including a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test or derivative technologies, including loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) tests
  - an antigen test, such as a test from a lateral flow device

*Please note seafarers with a valid SID are currently exempt from testing requirement per the exemptions section in this document (7). However, we strongly advise*

*checking with airlines and/or your travel agent (especially if arriving from a red/amber list country) as there may be additional regulations that apply in the departure country or you may be flying through a country that requires a negative test even for transit to allow boarding.*

*In Scotland seafarers that are returning to Scotland for a "period of leave" will not be exempt from this requirement if arriving into Scotland by air or not on a contract within the common travel area.*

Latest related links regarding pre-testing: **Scotland**, **England**, **Wales** & **Northern Ireland**

# 5.    Self-isoation

Providing a negative test result before you arrive to the UK does not change any regulations on self-isolation or quarantine. Unless you are in the exempt category (more details in section 8, self-isolation is still required if arriving at the UK from outside a green listed destination, and quarantine requirements are detailed further in this section.

From the 15th February 2021 new regulations were put in place for enforced quarantine in hotels on arrival to the UK, these differ per country but basic understanding is:

If you are travelling from a country that is on the red list, you will be refused entry at the border unless you are a UK or Irish national, have residency status in the UK, or qualify for one of the sectorial exemptions (including seafarers as of March 2021).

In Scotland it is entry to managed isolation - as of the 17$^{th}$ May this only applies to those arriving from red listed countries. There are a number of exemptions from managed isolation if arriving from red at-risk list countries (including seafarers).

As of March 2021, all nationalities of seafarers arriving to England, Wales and Northern Ireland are exempt from managed isolation and permitted to arrive if they have been in these countries.

For Scotland, the exemption applies if you are travelling to Scotland for work, if you are arriving to Scotland from overseas for a period of leave you are no longer exempt from entering managed isolation, however if off signing from a UK port call you remain exempt.

**\*\*It is very important to note that in the time between the seafarer arriving to the UK and joining the vessel, they should be in self isolation in a hotel if not going directly to the vessel on arrival (or for England and Wales if the seafarer is a resident in the UK)\*\***

Latest related links regarding Self-isolation: **Scotland**, **England**, **Wales** & **Northern Ireland**

# 6.  COVID Testing after arrival in the UK

New rules came into force in April 2021 for testing when arriving to the UK.  These differ depending on the country you arrive at, which countries you have arrived from and transited through, and the exemption category you are seeking.

In Scotland for those not entering managed isolation on arrival due to arriving from outside of a red list country you must book a testing package (2 and 8 day tests for Amber arrivals and 2 day test for Green list arrivals) online via the Government Approved Quarantine site unless you are exempt from same. For more check Scottish Government website.

In England there is now a bespoke testing regime in place for exempt groups arriving to the UK from overseas. The type of test that you will require may depend on the job you do and where you are arriving from which will determine whether that test needs to be a PCR test on days 2 and 8, an LFT test on days 2,5 and 8 or an LFD test on day 2. The specifics on the testing required is noted on the job exemptions pages for each particular job sector.

# 7.  What to do in the result of a Positive test

In the result of a positive test for COVID-19 you must follow guidance from the relevant health authority in each region. In general, if you test positive with a lateral flow device or a lateral flow test you usually must book a PCR test through the NHS to confirm the result.

Guidance will be issued to you by the relevant health authority but if the PCR result returns a negative result usually there is no need to self-isolate, however if the PCR test confirms the positive result you will be instructed to self-isolate for 10 days and further test results if negative will not be able to reduce the period of self-isolation.

Please follow links to guidance on testing from the relevant health authorities for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

# 8.  Seafarer exemptions

Based on the exemptions list for each country seafarers are mainly exempt from self-isolation, managed isolation / quarantine (including now arriving from a red country into England, Wales and Northern Ireland and if travelling to Scotland for work (travelling for a period of leave you must enter managed isolation in Scotland)) and providing a pre departure negative Covid-19 test (except currently Wales, please double check and confirm before travel). They are also exempt from arrival passenger locator forms (except in Wales and in some cases in Northern Ireland) if you travel in

a part of the vessel that is not accessible to passengers or travel on a vessel that does not carry passengers, for example, fishing boats, but not exempt if arriving to the UK by air.

Latest related links regarding exemptions lists and guidelines: **Scotland**, **England**, **Wales** & **Northern Ireland**.

We strongly recommend checking the latest guidelines and requirements with your local travel agent and airlines before travel to ensure smooth embarkation and arrival to join a vessel in the UK. Crew will need to provide proof of exemption such as seafarers identity book or declaration from the registered owners of the vessel that they are a crew member.

Travellers, if required, need to have the completed passenger locator form on them (printed or on phone) to show at Border Force. If a person works on a ship, including fishermen, they need to show a Seafarers Identification Document (SID) if they have one.

If they do not have a SID, they can show joining papers, seafarer's employment agreement or a seafarer's discharge book (Continuous Certificate of Discharge) instead. Alternatively, they could show a basic training certificate or declaration from the registered owners of the vessel that they are a crew member.

## 8.1 What if a person is joining the ship as a Superintendent or part of a mobilisation/demobilisation team?

Unfortunately, unless a person has a relevant seafarer's identification document, they would not qualify for exemption under seafarer status from managed quarantine or self-isolation. However, if you believe the person is critical to the vessel's needs please contact your local GAC agency where the port call is occurring, and they will consult with Border Force on your behalf.

Again, unless holding a seafarer's identification document the person would not qualify for exemption from pre-departure Covid testing requirements. We strongly recommend any advice on this is taken from travel agent or airline.

If the person is joining the vessel as project crew, please see the section on workers relating to oil and gas infrastructure.

*If unsure about any of the rules relating to this particular type of worker, please ensure to check with travel agent/airline before travelling.

## 8.2 Are Inspectors or Surveyor of ships exempt?

Yes, if an inspector or surveyor of ships is appointed under section 256 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 they should be exempt from self-isolation and managed quarantine They will not be exempt from Managed Isolation in Scotland if not travelling for work.

However, please check with your local GAC agency office who can confirm with Border Force.

The person will need to provide journey and contact details and should not need to self-isolate or enter quarantine for 10 days (unless arriving into Scotland and "not travelling for work"). They should show a Seafarers Identification Document (SID) if they have one. If they do not have a SID, they can show joining papers, seafarer's employment agreement or a seafarer's discharge book (Continuous Certificate of Discharge) instead.

Inspectors or Surveyors of ships should be exempt from the need to undertake a pre-departure Covid test (except if arriving to Wales or if arriving to Scotland and not "travelling for work"). We strongly advise checking this with your travel agent and/or airline before you fly to the UK.

*If unsure about any of the rules relating to this particular type of worker, please ensure to check with travel agent/airline before travelling.

## 8.3 Are workers involved in the continued safe and secure operation, maintenance and essential support services for offshore oil and gas infrastructure in the UK exempt?

No, these personnel are generally not exempt from self-isolation and managed quarantine unless they satisfy the requirements under the differing exemption lists on the Government websites or have arrived from a non-red list country and qualify under vaccination status. They will need to complete the [passenger locator form](#) and will need to self-isolate or enter quarantine/managed isolation unless they qualify not to under the exemption lists. They will also need to complete the declaration form for international travel if they are leaving from England or Wales for a destination outside of the UK.

They will not be exempt from pre-departure Covid testing and will need to undertake this no earlier than 72 hours before their journey to the UK begins. They will need to show a letter from their company at the border which includes:

- personal details, such as name and address
- contact details for employer
- explanation of work to be carried out.

If they have employer issued photo identification, they should bring this also.

*If unsure about any of the rules relating to this particular type of worker, please ensure to check with travel agent/airline before travelling.

### 8.4 Are persons transiting through the UK i.e. travelling home via the UK from another location exempt?

Yes, they will be exempt from self-isolation and managed quarantine if not passing border control, however if passing border control (i.e. change of airport in UK or overnight hotel stay before onward flight) general arrival rules will require to be followed but please liaise with your local GAC agency office to ensure compliance with any laws and guidelines for entering the UK and what will be required from a self-isolation regulation.

They will need to provide journey and contact details. They should not need to self-isolate for 10 days as only transiting via the UK. They will not need to show anything as will not pass through the UK border.

In order to transit the UK, you will have to have a pre departure COVID test.

*If unsure about any of the rules relating to this particular type of worker, please ensure to check with travel agent/airline before travelling.

### 8.5 Are Project crew/company visitors exempt?

Project crew/company visitors travelling from outside the UK, that are not departing with the vessel but just visiting, whilst alongside will not be classed as exempt personnel unless they qualify as a different profession (such as a seafarer) listed in the UK Government exemptions list.

Project Crew departing with the vessel, if classed as essential workers per the guidance will qualify for exemption and will not be required to self-isolate but will be required to fill out [passenger locator form](#).

Visitors **will not** be exempt from undertaking a pre-departure Covid test unless they qualify under another role per the exemptions list.

*If unsure about any of the rules relating to this particular type of worker, please ensure to check with travel agent/airline before travelling.

# 9. Vaccinations

Many parts of the UK are now also accepting seafarers in national walk-in vaccination centres, whereby they can receive either dose of the COVID-19 vaccination under the Migrant Health Guide. Seafarers do not require to be registered with a GP and GAC local agents can look to assist with arrangements of any available appointments if available within that location and also transportation if required.

# 10. Summary

These rules have been specifically introduced due to Covid-19 and are not to be confused with other UK Immigration laws. For guidance on Immigration laws in the UK please speak to your local GAC agency office who can advise on requirements for crew arriving at or departing the UK.

This document has been produced by GAC UK as *guidelines only* to the UK Government rules which are being changed and updated on a very regular basis. If there is any doubt or you have any questions, please contact your local GAC agent who can assist and liaise with Border Force for any clarification.

**\*\*Incorrect submissions or failure to submit any necessary travel forms will result in financial penalties. It is your responsibility to ensure your crew/staff are following all the latest travel rules. GAC UK cannot be held responsible for any breaches. We act as agents only and have produced this as an advisory document only for our customers.**

# 11. Useful Links

**General travel advice**
England - Travel advice: coronavirus (COVID-19)
Scotland - Coronavirus (COVID-19): international travel and managed isolation
Wales – Travel: coronavirus
N. Ireland - Coronavirus-covid-19 regulations guidance travel

**Managed Isolation / Quarantine**
Scotland, England, Wales & Northern Ireland

**Passenger Locator forms**
All four UK nations use same form - passenger locator form
Gibraltar - online passenger locator and 'relevant area form'

**Country Red and traffic light lists**
Scotland Red, Amber and Green List, England Red, Amber and Green List, Wales Red list & Northern Ireland Red list

**Exemptions lists**
England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland

**Declaration form for International travel (departures)**
Applies England & Wales only - declaration form for international travel

**Covid-19 pre-arrival testing information**
Scotland, England, Wales & Northern Ireland