



To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam,

**KEY WORKER EXEMPTION FROM MANDATORY QUARANTINE  
AND PROOF OF NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST**

The holder of this letter is employed in the maritime industry in a capacity that is exempt from the requirements to self-isolate for 10 days upon arrival in the UK and to provide a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to departure on an inbound flight into England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. The holder of this letter is also exempt from the requirement to complete the Passenger Locator Form unless they work on a vessel that carries passengers and they travel in a part of the vessel that is accessible to passengers.

The categories of exemption relating to the maritime industry are as follows:

- Seaman and Masters as defined in section 313(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995
- Maritime Pilots as defined in paragraph 22(1) of schedule 3A of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995
- Inspectors and surveyors of ships appointed under section 256 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995

The exemption from the requirements to self-isolate and to present confirmation of a negative COVID-19 test applies regardless of whether the individual is arriving in the UK for the purposes of crew change, shore leave or returning home on leave.

Evidence of employment in the above categories that should be accepted includes:

- A Seafarers Identification Document (SID)
- Joining papers
- Seafarers Employment Agreement (SEA)
- Seafarers discharge book
- Basic training certificate
- Declaration from the registered owners of a vessel confirming the individual as a crew member

The above information has been extracted from guidance updated by the UK government on 13 January 2021 which is reproduced overleaf and is available at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules)

Yours faithfully,

**Mark Dickinson**  
General Secretary  
Nautilus International

**Bob Sanguinetti**  
Chief Executive  
UK Chamber of Shipping

## Jobs that qualify for travel exemptions

Some people don't have to fill in a **passenger locator form** or **take a COVID-19 test** or self-isolate on arrival in the UK, because of the jobs they do.

This guidance lists the jobs that qualify for an exemption and tells people:

- which exemptions apply
- any conditions they will need to meet or evidence they will need to show

If you do one of these jobs, you still need to follow the same health guidance and national restrictions as people who live in the UK.

## Seamen and masters and inspectors and surveyors of ships

Applies to:

- Seamen and masters as defined in section 313(1) Merchant Shipping Act 1995
- Maritime pilots as defined in para 22(1) of schedule 3A of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, and
- Inspectors and surveyors of ships appointed under section 256 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 or by a government of a relevant British possession as defined in section 313(1) of that Act

You will need to complete the passenger locator form before you travel to the UK if you travel in a part of the vessel that is accessible to any passenger for any part of the journey.

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

You will not need to self-isolate.

If you work on a ship, including fishermen, you should show a Seafarer's Identification Document (SID) if you have one. If you don't have a SID, you can show your joining papers, seafarer's employment agreement or a seafarer's discharge book (Continuous Certificate of Discharge) instead. Alternatively, you could show a basic training certificate or declaration from the registered owners of the vessel that you are a crew member.

## Exemption from coronavirus testing before entering England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland

If you are a seafarer or fisherman due to work on a vessel or need to transit the UK to join or leave a vessel, you should show a valid Seafarer's Identification Document (SID) if you have one.

You do not need to present a negative COVID-19 result test prior to departure.