

Submitting a Maritime Declaration of Health

Customs regulation 3/2018 provides for ship-related maritime declarations of health as follows:

3.1.2.7 Ship-related Maritime Declaration of Health:

Arrival notifications for commercial ships incoming from abroad include a questionnaire on maritime health. The questionnaire is worded as follows: Is the ship carrying any hazardous materials that may cause an international health risk, **is the ship arriving from a region where an internationally significant epidemic has been verified AND/OR are there any persons on board the ship who are seriously ill and suffering from fever, cough, shortness of breath, rashes, symptoms involving haemorrhaging, paralysis, or are there any cases of death on board the ship that have involved these symptoms?**

If the answer to this is affirmative, a Maritime Declaration of Health accordant with the International Health Regulations (2005) of the World Health Organization must be attached to the ship's arrival notification.

The entire globe become an epidemic zone on 11 March 2020 when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a state of COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore as of 6 April 2020, the above part of the questionnaire in bold highlight will apply temporarily only to ships arriving from a region where an internationally significant epidemic **other than that caused by the COVID-19 virus** has been verified, AND/OR to ships with persons on board who are seriously ill and suffering from fever, cough, shortness of breath, rashes, symptoms involving haemorrhaging, or paralysis, or where related cases of death have occurred.

A Maritime Declaration of Health must be submitted in every situation where a ship is suspected to be carrying persons infected with the COVID-19 virus.

Further information on submitting Maritime Declarations of Health to Finnish Customs:

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