

OFFICIAL

Reference: Coronavirus (COVID-19): travellers exempt from border rules in the UK. June 2020 guidance.

Dear SCEG Members,

Following a SCEG enquiry the Department for Transport have confirmed that one of the groups exempt from the current Quarantine Rule are seamen as defined in section 313(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995. The Department for Transport is satisfied, for the purposes of this guidance, that Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (maritime) are included in this definition as they are 'employed or engaged in any capacity on board any ship'.

PCASPs will still need to complete the Public Health passenger locator form before they travel to the UK and should show a Seafarers Identification Document – I understand they should be in possession of British seaman's card. A letter from the PMSC stating the role undertaken by the individual for shipping operators will suffice if asked by border officials to show a letter from their employer.

A PCASP will still be expected to follow the same rules if they develop symptoms of Covid-19.

I am most grateful to Edward Statton, the Head of International Shipping and Counter Piracy at DfT, for his swift and authoritative response on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Paul Gibson