

2021 another year living with Covid in Singapore

2021 was another year of restriction within the country and limitations to travel overseas.

The restrictions included: limitations in group size of 2 people, later increased to 5 people, working from home as default for most of the year, quarantine requirements when returning from overseas, just to name a few.

For the maritime sector, as much as possible interactions with vessels calling the port of Singapore needed to be contactless, and far going digitalisation.

MPA the maritime authority in Singapore has provided financial support measured under a program called MaritimeSG Together.

Luckily since April 26, 2022 most of the restrictions have been lifted and we are back to a manageable form of normality.

Whereby, travelling to Singapore is allowed for fully vaccinated visitors without any quarantine requirements and without the requirements to have a pre-departure covid-test, working from offices is allowed again, no limitations on gatherings for events, safe distance and contact tracing measures lifted, wearing of masks remains mandatory indoors.

For the maritime sector, crew changes are back to pre-covid times and vessels can come to ports and shipyards within limitations, such as quarantine periods and covid testing requirements.

In the South-East Asian and Asian region restrictive measures are still very active in China, Hong-Kong and Taiwan, in lesser severity but still restrictions are seen in Japan.

As a result of the covid measures and restrictions in China, including port closures, we see major disturbances in shipping with delays and cancellations, in the top 10 biggest container ports are 6 Chinese ports (Shanghai, Ningbo-Zhoushan, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Qingdao, Tianjin).

The covid pandemic has learned us to be resilient, but sailors in a storm know that: "we cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails".

Regards,

Luc Verley