

Temporary amendment to the visa-issuing process at the external border (Schiphol) for seafarers signing on due to consular departments being closed down because of the COVID-19 measures.

The Royal Netherlands Marechaussee is facilitating the temporary issuing of visas to seafarers at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol requiring a visa.

This option is only offered to seafarers who (1) are unable to obtain a visa in their country of origin due to the closure, limited capacity or technical restrictions of the Dutch embassies abroad (as a result of COVID-19), (2) are on their way to

(a) ships belonging to a Dutch ship-owning company or (b) ships flying the Dutch flag and of (c) ships belonging to a Foreign ship-owning company (3) are anchored in a Dutch harbour.

In addition to the three criteria above, the following procedure applies to the processing of a request for issuing a visa at the border through this temporary process:

1. A timeslot needs to be allocated for requesting a visa at the border. To request this timeslot, click [here](#). If a timeslot is available and the applicant meets the three criteria mentioned above, they will receive confirmation (OK to apply) of the timeslot having been allocated.
2. No later than 72 hours before the seafarer arrives in the Netherlands, the 'STVZ COVID-19' form and the documents below will be sent to the Royal Dutch Marechaussee at Schiphol (VAP.GB@mindef.nl):
 - a. copy of a valid national passport and/or seaman's book;
 - b. fully completed sponsor declaration;
 - c. flight details from country of origin to Dutch airport (Schiphol);
 - d. name of Dutch embassy or consular representative that would usually process the application;
 - e. any other relevant documents that could increase the chances of the form being approved.
3. The Royal Dutch Marechaussee will inform the applicant that their application is being processed (OK to board).

Applications without an allocated timeslot as mentioned at Step 1 (OK to apply) will not be processed by the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee.

