

FONASBA MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRY



ENQUIRY RESPONSE FORM

ORIGINATING ASSOCIATION:	ASBA (Croatia)
ENQUIRY DETAILS:	<p>Croatia has made substantial progress in meeting Schengen's criteria.</p> <p>Consequently, local visa issuing procedures for seamen has recently been modified.</p> <p>We would like to ask our ECASBA colleagues (especially Schengen countries) to advise following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. IS IT POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE "VISA ON ARRIVAL" FOR THE ON-SIGNERS OR CREW MUST TRAVEL WITH PREVIOUSLY OBTAINED SCHENGEN VISA?2. IS IT POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE "VISA ON DEPARTURE" FOR THE OFF-SIGNERS?3. IS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE IN VISA PROCEDURE FOR SEAMEN SAILING ON A MERCHANT VESSEL AND PASSENGER VESSEL? <p>Note:</p> <p>"Visa on arrival" = Visa issued upon arrival at the destination airport. Crew travels only with Letter of Guarantee and OK To Board.</p> <p>"Visa on departure" = Visa issued at the origin airport after Crew has been disembarked from the vessel.</p>
REPLY TO:	admin@fonasba.com
CLOSING DATE FOR REPLIES:	Thursday 29th March 2018

RESPONDING ASSOCIATION COMMENTS: (Please include any attachments)

Belgium	<p>We have been in discussion with the border police for more than a year about their interpretation of the relevant articles 35.1b) and 36 of the visa code regulation (EG)810/2009 and for the time being we have reached an acceptable situation. We from our side feel that the criterion of "unforeseeable and urgent reasons" of article 35.1 b) is only applicable for on-signers and not for off-signers, but some officers of the border police disagree.</p> <p>And there is a permanent pressure from the EU on the Ministry of Internal Affairs and on the border police to diminish the number of visa granted at the border so we need to keep monitoring the situation from very close.</p> <p>This is the situation for the time being:</p>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In principle no visa on arrival for on-signers are granted at Belgian airports. It is only possible by exception, for unforeseeable and really urgent cases. A file with all supporting documents and evidence of circumstances needs to be submitted and approved by the border police beforehand. 2. Visa on departure for off-signers are obtainable in circumstances such as illness or personal and family issues and also in cases of end of contract. Proof needs to be given that the crewmember did not on-sign in a Schengen port or if he did so, that a multiple entry visa was asked for but not granted / was granted but expired. The administrative procedure is heavy but feasible. 3. There is no formal difference between the visa procedure for seamen sailing on a merchant vessel and those on a passenger vessel, but the interpretation of the above articles by some officers of the border police tends to be stricter in case of off-signers from cruise vessels - as their sailing schedules are fixed a long time on beforehand.
Denmark	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You cannot arrange VISA upon arrival as an applicant, so the on-signer must carry a valid VISA upon arrival at the airport. The on-signer, whether shifting crew in port or sailing through Danish waters, must be notified to the relevant police authority in advance according to their instructions. 2. You cannot arrange VISA on departure for off-signers as an applicant. The off-signer should have a valid VISA in order to be authorised to sign-off in either a Danish port or sailing through Danish waters, and it must be notified to the relevant police authority in advance, according to their instructions. If an Economic Operator guarantee for expenses and risk, the police may authorise an Economic Operator to arrange the transfer of a seaman with VISA obligation, but without a valid VISA, if it has been notified to the relevant police authority, according to their instructions. 3. The same rules apply for seamen whether on board a merchant vessel or a passenger vessel.
France	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As per regulation, no. Border Police used to be flexible, but not anymore. 2. As per regulation, no. Border Police used to be flexible, but not anymore. 3. No.
Greece	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. VISA cannot be issued on Arrival. On Signers must have either a valid Schengen Visa from the Greek Consulate or a Schengen Visa from another Schengen Country Consulate valid for Multiple Entries , Type C 2. Yes. Issuance of a Transit Schengen Visa for the Off Signers is possible. 3. No. There is no difference in Visa procedure for Seamen sailing on a Merchant Vessel or a Passenger one.
Hungary	We are landlocked country, and do not have this issue.
Italy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. They must travel with previously obtained Schengen Visa. 2. Yes 3. No, there is not any difference.

Malta	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is not possible to arrange a Visa on Arrival. Crew must travel with a previously obtained Schengen visa. 2. A visa is not required for crew in possession of a Seaman's book provided that they travel via a non-Schengen state. To travel to a Schengen state crew must have obtained a visa prior to disembarkation. 3. There is NO difference in visa procedure for seamen sailing on a merchant vessel or on a passenger vessel.
The Netherlands	<p>Answer to question 1 and 2 is YES. Normal (legal) procedure is that crew travels with visa on them before entering or disembarking the ship. But in special circumstances e.g. Death of family members or illness of crew member himself, an instant visa on arrival or departure is possible.</p> <p>There is no difference in visa procedure between merchant and passenger vessels.</p>
Portugal	<p>CREW CHANGE:</p> <p>On-signers, and due to Schengen Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if flights are through London or another non-Schengen Airport, without transit for any Schengen country, Visa can be arranged at Lisbon. - if flights are through any Schengen country, Visa must be arranged in the first Schengen country of transit. You should nominate Agency at that Airport to take care of Schengen formalities procedures. Also no 'OK to Board' or 'Letter on Invitation' will be sent from our side. <p>On this basis we suggest crew members take flights through London or another non-Schengen Airport.</p> <p>In order to proceed with formalities and request Visa at Immigration Office we will need following details 48 working hours prior arrival:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full name - Rank - Date / Place of birth - Passport number / date of issue / date of validity - Seaman's book number / date of issue / date of validity - Confirmed and final flight details <p>OK TO BOARD and LOG will be sent only with final flights.</p> <p>Off-signers:</p> <p>In order we can apply for visa at Immigration Office we need to receive by email, also at least 48 working hours prior disembark, same details and final confirmed flights as for on-signers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full name - Rank - Date / Place of birth - Passport number / date of issue / date of validity - Seaman's book number / date of issue / date of validity

	<p>http://www.secomunidades.pt/vistos/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=153&Itemid=97&lang=en</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>Kindly note that immigration take around 4 to 5 hours to issue the visa, we recommend all crew the travel with valid visa.</p>
Slovenia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. Yes 3. No <p>Note:</p> <p>“Visa on arrival” = Visa issued upon arrival at the destination airport. Crew travels only with letter of Guaranty and OK to Board.</p> <p>YES</p> <p>FOR REGULAR SEAMEN’S WHO ARE EMBARKIG THE VESSEL AND HAVE VALID SEAMEN’S BOOK AND PASSPORT.</p> <p>“Visa on departure”= Visa issued at the origin airport after Crew has been disembarked from the vessel.</p> <p>VISA CAN BE ARRANGED AT THE LOCAL PORT IMMIGRATION OFFICE FOR CREW WITH VALID SEAMEN’S BOOK AND PASSPORT.</p>
Spain	<p>All visa requirements for Schengen countries are detailed in the EU Parliament and Council Regulation 810/2009 of July 13, 2009:</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:jl0028</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009R0810</p> <p>Specifically, its ANNEX IX: “Rules for issuing visas at the border to seafarers in transit subject to visa requirements”</p> <p>Therefore:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. Yes 3. No.
Sweden	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No, it’s not possible anymore. 2. No, it’s not possible anymore. 3. No difference.