



To: EBIS Board  
CC: EBIS members

March 13, 2020

Dear EBIS Directors and members,

As we all know the COVID-19 is a worrying topic of today and the upcoming period.

The barge industry associations are concerned about the vetting systems of our customers in relation to the EBIS-inspections, BIRE-inspections or even other inspections, to be carried out.

We all could foresee that EBIS-inspections would fall still due to the traveling restrictions as announced by public authorities. Many companies have automatized vetting systems, which are connected to the EBIS-database.

If EBIS or BIRE-inspection will not be carried out within a certain time frame (for most companies annual) the specific barge is automatically running out of suitability in the vetting databases and cannot be used for the transport of your products.

We would like to raise awareness for this issue and call upon you to find (temporary) appropriate solutions to avoid the stop of barge movements due to probably impossible EBIS-inspections as "force majeure".

The barge industry is fully prepared to jointly discuss further steps and to cooperate in solving the issues in the interest of all parties concerned.

We look forward to receiving your feedback as soon as possible.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hacksteiner'.

Theresia Hacksteiner  
Secretary General EBU

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Devos A.' with a large, stylized flourish below it.

Alain Devos  
Director ESO