

Sr. No.	Authority	Extension Period
1.	Australia	<p data-bbox="382 289 2030 461">During this time of uncertainty that has been caused by COVID-19, and in line with the advice from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), AMSA has taken a pragmatic approach to seafarer certification. As a result, AMSA has implemented arrangements to:</p> <p data-bbox="382 472 2030 597">Extend: the expiry date of all AMSA issued STCW certificates and associated endorsements, expiring between 26 March and 1 October 2020, for a period of six months from the expiry date noted on the certificate</p> <p data-bbox="382 609 2030 691">Extend: the validity of AMSA issued certificates of safety training, expiring between 26 March and 1 October 2020, for a period of six months from the expiry date.</p> <p data-bbox="382 703 2030 786">Extend: the validity of AMSA issued certificates of medical fitness expiring between 26 March and 1 October 2020, for a period of six months from the expiry date.</p> <p data-bbox="382 797 2030 829">Enable: owners and masters of ships to permit personnel subject to above, to continue performing duties.</p> <p data-bbox="382 881 1136 914">Applying Procedure for AMSA for the certificates</p> <p data-bbox="382 925 2030 1003">There is no requirement for vessel owners, operators or seafarers to apply to AMSA for the above measures to be used.</p> <p data-bbox="382 1062 926 1094">Revalidation of expired certificates</p> <p data-bbox="382 1105 2030 1235">1. The above measures apply to all AMSA issued STCW certificates. However, those seafarers who meet the eligibility requirements for revalidation, and have the ability to make an application before the expiry date of the certificate, are strongly encouraged to apply to revalidate their certificate before it expires.</p> <p data-bbox="382 1294 2030 1372">2. Please note that when the time comes to revalidate an expired certificate, the new replacement certificate will be issued for a period of five years from the original certificate expiry date.</p>

2.	Bangladesh	<p>Seafarer's Certification: Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) which will be expired before 30th April 2020 will be granted a general extension till 30th June 2020. Seafarers will not be required to apply for the extension. Consideration will be given to allow seafarers who hold foreign issued Certificates of Competencies (CoC) to continue serving onboard Bangladesh Registered ships, if they are unable to revalidate their CoC before the expiry date due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Bangladesh Registered Ships owners and managers may submit such request in-writing to Department of shipping (Dos), accompanied with a confirmation of continued validity from the issuing authority of the seafarer's CoC.</p> <p>Minimum Safe Manning Document (MSMD) Where it can be demonstrated that a crew member is required to depart a vessel owing to the Covid-19 and unable to be replaced, exemptions to MSMD will be considered on a case by case basis and should be supported by risk assessments from the company.</p> <p>Medical certificate: If a medical certificate expires whilst the seafarer is at sea, the certificate is allowed to remain in force until the next port of call where the seafarer can obtain a medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner. This is permitted for up to 30th June 2020. If a seafarer is urgently required to join a ship with an expired medical certificate; the Department of Shipping (DoS) must be contacted to request permission.</p> <p>Continues Discharge Certificate (CDC): Continues Discharge Certificate (CDC) which will be expired before 30th April 2020 will be granted a general extension till 30th June 2020. Seafarers will not be required to apply for the extension.</p> <p>Extension of Seafarers Employment Agreements (SEA): The Seafarers Employment Agreements (SEA) should remain valid. The company should explain to the seafarers as to why they need to remain on board. If any of the SEA's have expired, they need to be</p>
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		<p>extended or new ones issued. The company needs to ensure that the seafarers are sent home at the first available opportunity. Evidence should be retained by both the seafarer and the Company clearly demonstrating the reason why the Seafarer was asked to extend their contract.</p> <p>Extension of mandatory surveys, audits and expiry of statutory certificates: Statutory certificates which will be expired before 30th April 2020 will be granted a general extension till 30th June 202A. Owners or operators of Bangladesh Registered ships will not required applying for the extension.</p> <p>Port State Control Measures. Port State Control officers are instructed to take a pragmatic and practical approach in relation to these certificates and endorsement extensions and their acceptance in the excise of Port State Control procedures.</p>
3.	Comoros	<p>25.02.2020</p> <p>This administration taking into consideration the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and the latest IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.5 – understands the posed challenge to allow the continued training of seafarers, revalidate certificates (including medical certificates) and issuance of endorsements attesting recognition of certificates in accordance with the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended.</p> <p>This administration takes a pragmatic and practical approach with regard to the extension of the above-mentioned certificates and endorsement, as strictly necessary.</p> <p>Port State Control Authorities are also encouraged to take a pragmatic and practical approach in relation to these certificate and endorsement extensions, and their acceptance in the exercise of control procedures in accordance with article X (Control) and regulation ¼ (Control procedures) of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended</p>

18.06.2020 (IR class circular)

1. The Maritime Administration of Comoros vide Circular Ref No. 20/01855/COM has provided following guidance relating to the postponement/extension of statutory certification and surveys including ISM / ISPS and MLC audits/ inspections as an exceptional measures in view of outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

a. Where a surveyor is not able to undertake scheduled surveys due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19, Recognized Organizations to request authorization for issuance of a Conditional Certificate valid for three (3) months using remote surveys, provided all relevant records and justifications are reported to the Administration.

b. In case of annual servicing of life saving appliances and firefighting equipment expiring between June and August 2020, application is to be made via RO for extension for a maximum of three (3) months period, submitting also an official statement by the Master of the ship that the equipment is in good operational condition.

c. Vessels holding a Conditional Certificate due to deficiencies or damages onboard, which cannot be rectified or corrected, shall in coordination with their RO communicate with the Administration for further guidance.

d. All statutory certificates (except for Conditional Certificates) expiring between June and August 2020 will exceptionally be extended for a period of three (3) months including DOC/SMC/ISSC/MLC and Exemption Certificates, subject to RO's acceptance and in coordination with it.

e. The postponement/ Extension of the inspection of the outside ship's bottom will continue to be processed on a case by case basis. Inspections afloat using remote inspection techniques might be allowed under exceptional circumstances. Extensions beyond three (3) months may require a Risk Assessment

approved by the RO, including mitigation measures.

f. An extension for a period of three (3) months from the below indicated deadlines will be granted by the Administration for the following regulations of MARPOL Convention /Annex VI;

i. The notification of fuel oil consumption data within a period of three months from the end of each calendar year (Reg. 22A.3), whose deadline was 31st March 2020;

ii. The issuance of the Statement of Compliance related to the ships fuel consumption data reports (Reg. 6.6), whose deadline was on 31st May 2020; and

iii. The report of the fuel oil consumption data of the ships, after the issuance of the Statement of Compliance of said ships (Reg.22A.9), whose deadline will be 30 June 2020.

g. The validity of color copies of Original Certificates as per Administration's Circular 18/01165/COM, issued as of June 2020 and afore, to be considered valid for a three (3) months period.

2. The measures stated above is effective immediately. However, the attached circular will not apply once the current crisis due to the pandemic is overcome and the RO consider as safe and risk-free to perform the relevant surveys/audits.

3. Ship owners/ operators and masters of Comoros flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance relating to the postponement/extension of statutory certification & services

This administration taking into consideration the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and its declaration by the

World Health Organization (WHO) as a pandemic, shall allow, as an exceptional measure and as a response to the current worldwide lock downs and travel restrictions, in order to keep the maritime trade safe and secure, the postponement and/or extension of all statutory certification and all survey services including ISM Code/ISPS Code audits and inspections related to MLC, 2006.

1. Recognized organizations (ROs) shall request authorization for the issuance of Conditional Certificates valid for three (3) months using remote surveys, in cases where physical visits are not possible, provided all relevant records and justifications are reported, the soonest, to this Administration;
2. Annual services of life saving appliances and firefighting equipment expiring between September and November 2020, shall apply via vessels' ROs for extension for a maximum of three (3) month period, submitting also an official statement by the Master of the ship that the equipment is in good operational conditions;
3. Vessels holding Conditional Certificates due to deficiencies or damages on board, which cannot be rectified or corrected, in coordination with their RO, shall communicate with this administration for further guidance;
4. All statutory certificates (except for Conditional Certificates) expiring between September and November 2020 shall exceptionally be extended for a maximum of three (3) month period, including DOC/SMC/ISS/MLC and exemption Certificates, subject to RO's acceptance and in coordination with it;
5. The postponement/Extension of the inspection of the outside ships' bottom will continue to be processed on a case basis. Inspections afloat using remote inspection technique might be allowed under exceptional circumstances. Extensions beyond three (3) Months may require a risk Assessment approved by the RO, Including mitigation measures;
6. In compliance with the following regulations of MARPOL Convention/Annex VI, an extension for a period of three (3) months from the below indicated deadlines shall be granted:
 - a) The notification of fuel oil consumption data within a period of three months from the end of each calendar year (rule 22A.3), whose deadline was March 31, 2020;

- b) The issuance of the Statement of Compliance related to the ships fuel consumption data reports (rule 6.6), whose deadline was May 31, 2020; and
 - c) The report of the fuel oil consumption data for the ships, after the issuance of the Statement of compliance of said ships (rule 22A.9), whose deadline was June 30, 2020.
7. The validity of color copies of original certificates as per this administration's circular "18/01165/COM", herewith attached underneath, issued as of September 2020 and afore, shall be considered valid for a three (3) month period;
 8. This circular is effective immediately, due to the urgency of the circumstances, however once the current worldwide crisis due to the pandemic is overcome, our regular procedure will return. It shall be noted that this circular does not apply when the RO considers as safe and risk-free to perform the relevant surveys/audits;
 9. The administration will continue evaluating the current worldwide situation due to the Covid-19. Further extensions (re-extension) might be granted on a case by case basis and after throughout evaluation of the circumstances beyond the control of the operator, upon the relevant evidence is provided.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance relating to the postponement/extension of statutory certification & services (04.01.2021)

This administration taking into consideration the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and its declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a pandemic, shall allow, as an exceptional measure and as a response to the current worldwide lock downs and travel restrictions, in order to keep the maritime trade safe and secure, the postponement and/or extension of all statutory certification and all survey services including ISM Code/ISPS Code audits and inspections related to MLC, 2006.

1. Recognized organizations (ROs) shall request authorization for the issuance of Conditional Certificates valid for three (3) months using remote surveys, in cases where physical visits are not possible, provided all

relevant records and justifications are reported, the soonest, to this Administration;

2. Annual services of life saving appliances and firefighting equipment expiring between December 2020 and February 2021, shall apply via vessels' ROs for extension for a maximum of three (3) month period, submitting also an official statement by the Master of the ship that the equipment is in good operational conditions;

3. Vessels holding Conditional Certificates due to deficiencies or damages on board, which cannot be rectified or corrected, in coordination with their RO, shall communicate with this administration for further guidance;

4. All statutory certificates (except for Conditional Certificates) expiring between December 2020 and February 2021 shall exceptionally be extended for a maximum of three (3) month period, including DOC/SMC/ISS/MLC and exemption Certificates, subject to RO's acceptance and in coordination with it;

5. The postponement/Extension of the inspection of the outside ships' bottom will continue to be processed on a case basis. Inspections afloat using remote inspection technique might be allowed under exceptional circumstances. Extensions beyond three (3) Months may require a risk Assessment approved by the RO, Including mitigation measures;

6. In compliance with the following regulations of MARPOL Convention/Annex VI, an extension for a period of three (3) months from the below indicated deadlines shall be granted:
Circular Renewal of Flag certificates

a) The notification of fuel oil consumption data within a period of three months from the end of each calendar year (rule 22A.3), whose deadline was March 31, 2020;

		<p>b) The issuance of the Statement of Compliance related to the ships fuel consumption data reports (rule 6.6), whose deadline was May 31, 2020; and</p> <p>c) The report of the fuel oil consumption data for the ships, after the issuance of the Statement of compliance of said ships (rule 22A.9), whose deadline was June 30, 2020.</p> <p>7. The validity of color copies of original certificates as per this administration’s circular “18/01165/COM”, herewith attached underneath, issued as of December 2020 and afore, shall be considered valid for a three (3) month period;</p> <p>8. This circular is effective immediately, due to the urgency of the circumstances, however once the current worldwide crisis due to the pandemic is overcome, our regular procedure will return. It shall be noted that this circular does not apply when the RO considers as safe and risk-free to perform the relevant surveys/audits;</p> <p>9. The administration will continue evaluating the current worldwide situation due to the Covid-19. Further extensions (re-extension) might be granted on a case by case basis and after throughout evaluation of the circumstances beyond the control of the operator, upon the relevant evidence is provided.</p>
4.	France	<p>Information Memo COVID – 19 (CL. 4234)</p> <p>Emergency provisions planned</p> <p>In compliance with government provisions to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow ships to keep going their operations, the validity of French vessels certificates, including navigation license, expiring during the period of the state of health emergency are extended from this expiration date, up to three months after the end of the state of health emergency.</p> <p>The safety management certificates (ISM), safety certification (ISPS) and social certification (MLC and</p>

ILO188), may be kept valid according to the instruction STEN INST / 001 of 03/09/2020 (annexed to this notice) Provisions for STCW and STCW-F certificates, endorsements, documentary evidences for seafarers, and maritime education and training institutions approvals, issued by French maritime authorities :

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow seafarers and ships to keep going their activities, the period of validity of the following documents is extended from the end of their validity until three months after the end of the state of health emergency set by the French law :

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;
- Flag State endorsements issued by the French Maritime authorities ;
- Recognition of professional qualifications certificates for seafarers on fishing vessels and shellfish sector ;
- Maritime education and training institutions approvals. This extension only applies to documents whose validity has expired during the health emergency period.

Provisions for medical certificates issued to seafarers by French maritime Authorities :

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, validity of medical certificates for seafarers essential for ships operations expiring during the period of the state of emergency are extended from the end of their validity up to three months after the end of the state of health emergency.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE COVID-19 (CL.4234/Add.1)

2. Provisions for French vessels certificates:

In compliance with government provisions to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow ships to keep going their operations, the validity of French vessels certificates, including navigation license, expiring during the period of the state of health emergency are extended from this expiration date, up to three months after the end of the state of health emergency. These provisions do not apply to safety management certificates (ISM), security certification (ISPS) and social certification (MLC and ILO188), which

may be kept valid by the delivery of a six month provisional certificate, in accordance with instruction STEN INST / 001 of 03/09/2020 (annexed to this notice)

3. Provisions for STCW and STCW-F certificates, endorsements, documentary evidences for seafarers, and maritime education and training institutions approvals, issued by French maritime authorities:

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow seafarers and ships to keep going their activities, the period of validity of the following documents is extended from the end of their validity until three months after the end of the state of health emergency set by the French law:

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;
- Flag State endorsements issued by the French Maritime authorities ;
- Recognition of professional qualifications certificates for seafarers on fishing vessels and shellfish sector ;
- Maritime education and training institutions approvals.

This extension only applies to documents whose validity has expired during the health emergency period.

4. Provisions for medical certificates issued to seafarers by French maritime authorities:

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, validity of medical certificates for seafarers essential for ships operations expiring during the period of the state of emergency are extended from the end of their validity up to three months after the end of the state of health emergency.

5. Provision about Port State Control, including inspections on the sulfur content of marine fuels

Regular inspections have been suspended until the end of the covid-21 urgency health emergency, under the provisions of the law n ° 2020-290 of March 23, 2020 emergency to deal with the covid-19 epidemic, except in the event of a serious risk to the safety of a ship, the crew, the environment or security. Covid-19

crisis countermeasures taken by the administration of a flag State will be taken into account during this period, in the respect of the instructions provided by the Paris Memorandum of Understanding.

6. Provision about the providing of information to ships and crews on basic protective measures against COVID-19 based on WHO advice.

Information and guidelines are provided to the French operators and French flagged ships by GRIS-NEZ MRCC as international point of contact for all safety, health and security issues.

7. French-British provision to fight the spread of the coronavirus, in the context of cross-Channel Ferry traffic

To fight the spread of coronavirus, car ferry companies operating between France and the United Kingdom may exceptionally allow truck drivers to stay in their vehicles.

Not systematic, this rule must make it possible to respond to the worst possible scenario of total segregation, in order to maintain the circulation of essential products between France and the United Kingdom while protecting seafarers and drivers.

- Ship-owners therefore have 3 options to strengthen the fight against the spread of the virus on board:
- Control of boarding and people flows and closing of public places on board, limitation of passengers in the ship like the measures practiced on land
- Segregation of drivers in passenger cabins for ships fitted with them crossing in the vehicle. In the latter case, companies must carry out a risk assessment (fire, collision, etc.) and propose alternative safety measures. This analysis must be sent to the ship safety centers and to the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency, which validated this procedure. This Franco-British provision has been proposed to other flag States.

8. Decree No. 2020-370 of March 30, 2020 supplementing Decree No. 2020-293 of March 23, 2020 prescribing the general measures necessary to deal with the Covid-19 epidemic in the context of the state of health emergency

This text provides, unless an exemption is granted by the representative of the competent authority:

- The prohibition of any cruise ship, with or without passengers, from stopping, stopping or anchoring in French internal waters and territorial sea
- The prohibition for all merchant ships to carry more than 100 passengers, excluding drivers accompanying their freight transport vehicle. In no case may the number of passengers and drivers exceed a quarter of the maximum capacity of the ship.
- For river transport, the distance rules must be observed on board. The maximum number of passengers cannot exceed a quarter of the maximum capacity of the boat The hygiene rules already imposed for land transport must be followed: hydro alcoholic gel compulsory if there is no soap, disinfection of spaces that have welcomed passengers For ships operating on international connections or longer than 2 hours, passengers must justify their trip otherwise they will be denied boarding These provisions apply to the entire metropolitan territory, Corsica and to the overseas departments and territories taking into account their own powers.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE COVID-19 (CL.4234/Add.2)

2. Provisions for French vessels certificates

In compliance with government provisions to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow ships to keep going their operations, the validity of French vessels certificates, including navigation license, expiring from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up to six months after the end of the state of health emergency.

The end of the state of health emergency is now planned for July 24, 2020.

Shipowners will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not necessarily entailing the issuance of a new document. However, under request, French maritime administration may issue a statement.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, shipyards, classification societies, before this deadline

3. Provisions for STCW and STCW-F certificates, endorsements, documentary evidences for seafarers, and maritime education and training institutions approvals, issued by French maritime authorities

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow seafarers and ships to keep going their activities, the period of validity of the following documents, expiring from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up to six months after the end of the state of health emergency set by the French law :

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;
- Flag State endorsements issued by the French Maritime authorities ;
- Recognition of professional qualifications certificates for seafarers on fishing vessels and shellfish sector ;
- Maritime education and training institutions approvals.

The end of the state of health emergency is now planned for July 24, 2020.

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, training centers, before this deadline.

4. Provisions for medical certificates issued to seafarers by French maritime authorities

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, validity of medical certificates for seafarers essential for ships operations, expiring from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up to six months after the end of the state of health emergency.

The end of the state of health emergency is now planned for July 24, 2020.

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, seafarers' doctors, before this deadline.

5. Provision about Port State Control, including inspections on the sulfur content of marine fuels

Regular inspections have been suspended until the end of the covid-21 urgency health emergency, under the provisions of the law n ° 2020-290 of March 23, 2020 emergency to deal with the covid-19 epidemic, except in the event of a serious risk to the safety of a ship, the crew, the environment or security.

Covid-19 crisis countermeasures taken by the administration of a flag State will be taken into account during this period, in the respect of the instructions provided by the Paris Memorandum of Understanding.

6. Provision about the providing of information to ships and crews on basic protective measures against COVID-19 based on WHO advice

Information and guidelines are provided to the French operators and French flagged ships by GRIS-NEZ MRCC as international point of contact for all safety, health and security issues.

7. Decree No. 2020-370 of March 30, 2020 supplementing Decree No. 2020-293 of March 23, 2020 prescribing the general measures necessary to deal with the Covid-19 epidemic in the context of the state of health emergency

This text provides, unless an exemption is granted by the representative of the competent authority :

- The prohibition of any cruise ship, with or without passengers, from stopping, stopping or anchoring in French internal waters and territorial sea
- The prohibition for all merchant ships to carry more than 100 passengers, excluding drivers accompanying their freight transport vehicle. In no case may the number of passengers and drivers exceed a quarter of the maximum capacity of the ship.
- For river transport, the distance rules must be observed on board. The maximum number of passengers cannot exceed a quarter of the maximum capacity of the boat

The hygiene rules already imposed for land transport must be followed: hydro alcoholic gel compulsory if there is no soap, disinfection of spaces that have welcomed passengers

For ships operating on international connections or longer than 2 hours, passengers must justify their trip otherwise they will be denied boarding

These provisions apply to the entire metropolitan territory, Corsica and to the overseas departments and territories taking into account their own powers.

Emergency response Covid-19 – (Circular Letter No.4234/Add.5)

Extending the validity of safety, security and prevention of ships pollution, social certification, STCW and STCW-F Certificates, endorsements, documentary evidences for seafarers, and maritime education and training institutions approvals, marine medical certificates for seafarers, during the state of health emergency aimed at curbing the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Provisions for French vessels certificates

In compliance with government provisions to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to

allow ships to keep going their operations, the validity of French vessels certificates, including navigation license, expiring after March 12, 2020, is extended from their expiration date, up to six months after the end of the state of health emergency.

The state of health emergency ended on July 10, 2020.

Shipowners will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not necessarily entailing the issuance of a new document, unless specifically requested. A statement of extension of certification can however be issued by the Administration.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, shipyards, classification societies, before this deadline

Provisions for STCW and STCW-F certificates, endorsements, documentary evidences for seafarers, and maritime education and training institutions approvals, issued by French maritime authorities

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow seafarers and ships to keep going their activities, the period of validity of the following documents, expiring from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up to six months after the end of the state of health emergency set by the French law :

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;
- Flag State endorsements issued by the French Maritime authorities ;
- Recognition of professional qualifications certificates for seafarers on fishing vessels and shellfish sector ;
- Maritime education and training institutions approvals.

The state of health emergency ended on July 10, 2020.

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, training centres, before this deadline.

Provisions for medical certificates issued to seafarers by French maritime authorities

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, validity of medical certificates for seafarers essential for ships operations, expiring from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up to six months after the end of the state of health emergency.

The state of health emergency ended on July 10, 2020.

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, seafarers' doctors, before this deadline.

Circular Letter No.4234/Add.7 - 11 January 2021

1. Context

France was again declared in a state of health emergency from October 17, 2020. The law has set the end of this state of health emergency on February 16, 2021 inclusive. However, specific measures still apply or are reintroduced in the functioning of State services and companies, which may continue to affect the renewal or the endorsement of ship certificates as well as the renewal of STCW and STCW-F certificates, training documentary evidences, endorsements and marine medical certificates for seafarers, which would expire during the period.

Thus, the following provisions are necessary for transport and maritime services to keep going. They consist for the services of the French Maritime Authorities in extending the validity of the various certificates (navigation, controls, social certification, medical aptitude, training, ...) essential for the operation and which cannot be because of the circumstances related to COVID 19.

These measures are taken in consistency with the international provisions recommended and decided by the IMO and the ILO on the matter.

2. Provisions for French vessels certificates

In compliance with government provisions to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow ships to keep going their operations, the validity of French vessels certificates, including navigation license, expiring from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up to six months after the end of the state of health emergency.

The end of the state of health emergency was stopped on July 10, 2020.

Shipowners will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not necessarily entailing the issuance of a new document, unless specifically requested. A statement of extension of certification can be issued by the Administration.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, shipyards, classification societies, before this deadline

3. Provisions for STCW and STCW-F certificates, endorsements, documentary evidences for seafarers, and maritime education and training institutions approvals, issued by French maritime authorities

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow seafarers and ships to keep going their activities, the period of validity of the following documents, expiring from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up to six months after the end of the state of health emergency set by the aforementioned law of March 23, 2020 set for July 10, 2020 :

- Flag State endorsements issued by the French Maritime authorities ;
- Recognition of professional qualifications certificates for seafarers on fishing vessels and shellfish sector ;
- Maritime education and training institutions approvals.

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow seafarers and ships to keep going their activities, the period of validity of the following documents, expiring from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up to the end of the state of health emergency set by the aforementioned law of November 14, 2020 nowadays set for February 16, 2021 :

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, training centers, before this deadline.

4. Provisions for medical certificates issued to seafarers by French maritime authorities

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, validity of medical certificates for seafarers essential for ships operations, expiring from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up the end of the state of health emergency set by the aforementioned law of November 14, 2020 nowadays set for February 16, 2021.

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, seafarers' doctors, before this deadline.

5. Provision about the providing of information to ships and crews on basic protective measures against COVID-19 based on WHO advice

Information and guidelines are provided to the French operators and French flagged ships by GRIS-NEZ MRCC as international point of contact for all safety, health and security issues.

These documents are available at the following address : <https://www.mer.gouv.fr/coronavirus-covid-19-recommandations-et-conduite-tenir-bord-de-navires-sous-pavillon-francais>

6. Provision about the maritime of passengers in order to deal with the epidemic of covid-19.

The end of containment took place on May 11, 2020 and transport activities gradually resumed in several phases. The transport of passengers on board cruise ships is subjected to specific general measures to deal with the covid-19 epidemic (see article 6 of decree n ° 2020-860 in reference).

A national transport out of containment protocol was published in June 22, 2020 and specific recommendations for cruising were added.

These documents are available at the following address : <https://www.mer.gouv.fr/coronavirus-covid-19-recommandations-et-conduite-tenir-bord-de-navires-sous-pavillon-francais>

These provisions apply to the entire metropolitan territory, Corsica and to the overseas departments and territories taking into account their own powers.

Circular Letter No.4234/Add.8 18 February 2021

1. Context

France was again declared in a state of health emergency from October 17, 2020. The law has set the end of this state of health emergency on June 1, 2021 inclusive. However, specific measures still apply or are reintroduced in the functioning of State services and companies, which may continue to affect the issuing or the revalidation of STCW and STCW-F certificates, training documentary evidences and marine medical certificates for seafarers, which would expire during the period.

Thus, the following provisions are necessary for transport and maritime services to keep going. They consist for the services of the French Maritime Authorities in extending the validity of the various seafarers' certificates or documents essential for the operation and which cannot be issued or revalidated because of the circumstances related to COVID 19.

These measures are taken in consistency with the international provisions recommended and decided by the IMO and the ILO on the matter.

2. Provisions for STCW and STCW-F certificates, documentary evidences for seafarers issued by French maritime authorities

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow seafarers and ships to keep going their activities, the period of validity of the following documents, expiring from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up to the end of the state of health emergency set by the aforementioned law of November 14, 2020 nowadays set for June 1, 2021 :

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration, as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, training centers, before this deadline.

3. Provisions for medical certificates issued to seafarers by French maritime authorities

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, validity of medical certificates for seafarers essential for ships operations, expiring from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up to the end of the state of health emergency set by the aforementioned law of November 14, 2020 nowadays set for June 1, 2021.

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, seafarers' doctors, before this deadline.

Circular Letter No.4234/Add.9 25 May 2021

1. Context

France was again declared in a state of health emergency from October 17, 2020 has set the end of this state of health emergency on June 1, 2021 inclusive. Specific measures still apply or are reintroduced in the functioning of State services and companies, which may continue to affect the issuing or the revalidation of STCW and STCW-F certificates, training documentary evidences and marine medical certificates for seafarers, which would expire during the period.

Thus, the following provisions are necessary for transport and maritime services to keep going. They consist for the services of the French Maritime Authorities in extending the validity of the various seafarers' certificates or documents essential for the operation and which cannot be issued or revalidated because of the circumstances related to COVID 19.

These measures are taken in consistency with the international provisions recommended and decided by the IMO and the ILO on the matter.

2. Provisions for STCW and STCW-F certificates, documentary evidences for seafarers issued by French maritime authorities

For decisions expiring from March 12, 2020 and until January 10, 2021:

In compliance with government provisions to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow the continuity of the activity of seafarers and ships, the period of validity of the following decisions, expiring from 12 March, 2020 until January 10, 2021, will be extended until a date set by the French maritime authority and no later than July 1, 2021.

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration, as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The extension date, set by the French maritime authority, will be determined according to priorities taking into account the circumstances, maritime safety requirements, service requirements and preliminary instruction, visit or required control formalities. The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of ships and training centers before this deadline.

For decisions expiring from January 11, 2021:

In compliance with the same governmental provisions and in order to allow a similar continuity of the activity of seafarers and ships, the period of validity of the following decisions, expiring between January 11, 2021 and the entry into force of the décret n° 2021-370 of March 31, 2021 or expiring after that date, will be extended until a date set by the French maritime authority following the end of this period and no later than September 1, 2021.

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration, as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The extension date, set by the French maritime authority, will be determined according to priorities taking into account the circumstances, maritime safety requirements, service requirements and preliminary instruction, visit or required control formalities. The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of ships and training centers before this deadline.

3. Provisions for medical certificates issued to seafarers by French maritime authorities

For decisions expiring from March 12, 2020 and until January 10, 2021:

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, validity of medical certificates for seafarers essential for ships operations, expiring from March 12, 2020 until January 10, 2021 will be extended from the end of their validity until a date set by the French maritime authority and no later than July 1, 2021.

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, seafarers' doctors, before this deadline.

For decisions expiring from January 11, 2021:

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, validity of medical certificates for seafarers essential for ships operations, expiring from January 11, 2021 and the entry into force of décret n° 2021-370 of March 31, 2021 or expiring after that date, will be extended until a date set by the French maritime authority following the end of this period and no later than September 1, 2021.

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, seafarers' doctors, before this deadline.

Circular Letter No.4234/Add.11 2 July 2021

1. Context

France, declared in a state of health emergency as of 17 October 2020, has set the end of this state of health emergency for 1 June 2021 inclusive. Specific measures still apply or are reintroduced in the functioning of State services and companies, which may continue to affect the renewal of certificates of competency, certificates of aptitude and maritime vocational training certificates that are due to expire.

Thus, the following provisions are necessary for transport and maritime services to keep going. They consist for the services of the French Maritime Authorities in extending the validity of the various decisions relating to certificates of competency, certificates of aptitude and maritime vocational training certificates for seafarers who are essential to the crews and operation of ships and who were unable to do so because of the circumstances relating to COVID 19.

These measures are taken in consistency with the international provisions recommended and decided by the IMO and the ILO on the matter.

2. Provisions applicable to certificates of competency, certificates of aptitude and maritime vocational training certificates issued by the French maritime authorities

For decisions expiring from March 12, 2020 and until January 10, 2021:

In compliance with government provisions to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow the continuity of the activity of seafarers and ships, the period of validity of the following decisions, expiring from 12 March, 2020 until January 10, 2021, will be extended until a date set by the French maritime authority and no later than October 1, 2021.

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration, as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The extension date, set by the French maritime authority, will be determined according to priorities taking into account the circumstances, maritime safety requirements, service requirements and preliminary instruction, visit or required control formalities. The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of ships and training centres before this deadline.

For decisions expiring from January 11, 2021:

In compliance with the same governmental provisions and in order to allow a similar continuity of the activity of seafarers and ships, the period of validity of the following decisions, expiring between January 11, 2021 and the entry into force of the décret n° 2021-370 of March 31, 2021 or expiring after that date, will be extended until a date set by the French maritime authority following the end of this period and no later than December 31, 2021.

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;

		<p><i>Liberté Égalité Fraternité</i></p> <p>Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration, as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.</p> <p>The extension date, set by the French maritime authority, will be determined according to priorities taking into account the circumstances, maritime safety requirements, service requirements and preliminary instruction, visit or required control formalities. The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of ships and training centers before this deadline.</p> <p>3. Provisions for medical certificates issued to seafarers by French maritime authorities</p> <p>The above extension scheme does not apply to medical certificates issued to seafarers by the French maritime authorities. The provisions of the French maritime authorities' note in its version updated on 19 May 2021 remain applicable.</p>
5.	India	<p>DG Shipping Order No. 06 of 2020.</p> <p>Actions for the force majeure arising due to COVID-19</p> <p>1. Extension of service beyond the COC/COE/COP revalidation deadline: The COC COE COP of seafarers, who are currently sailing onboard Indian flagged vessels and Indian seafarers sailing on foreign Flag ships, whose COC / COE / COP are about to expire stands extended for a maximum period of One month or till they sign off, whichever is earlier.</p> <p>2. Safe Manning Document (SMD) and exemptions to SMD: Where the Ship owners/Operators/Managers need to sign-off a crew member from a vessel due to the port restrictions at some ports and travel restrictions and the Ship owners/Operator/Manager is unable to repatriate them, exemptions to Safe Manning Documents will be considered on a case by case basis. Each request should be supported by risk assessment from the company. There will be no fees charged for these exemptions and exemptions will be issued on email.</p> <p>3. Extension of mandatory surveys, audits and expiry of statutory certificates:</p>

Consideration for the issuance of extension of mandatory statutory surveys, inspections and DOC/SMC/MLC/ISPS audits for a maximum period of 3 months under 'force majeure' due to the COVID 19 situation, will be granted provided necessary justification submitted for approval.

For extension of requests for DOC/SMC/MLC/ISPS and inspections, the application need to be submitted much before the due date of the inspection / audits or expiry date of concerned statutory certificates in order to avoid issues arising out of PSC. There will be no fees charged for these extensions/exemptions and extensions/exemptions will be issued on email.

4. In so far as extension of dry-docking surveys / periodical / annual / renewal surveys are concerned, if practicable, the Class may carryout necessary inspections for the purpose of the proposed extension of surveys. If the Class is finding it impractical to carry out certain inspections due to the prevailing conditions in various ports / countries, they may issue the requested survey extension with proper justification after obtaining an undertaking from the Master of the vessel for the satisfactory condition of the vessel and verification of survey records, as deemed appropriate. For extension of surveys, the online payment of applicable fees, as being done currently, shall continue.

In order to avoid misuse of the aforesaid relaxations, the ship owner / managers will have to keep the records to be verified during the next scheduled audit of the ship / company and penal action may be initiated, if found unjustified.

Addendum No.1 to DGS Order 6 of 2020

Regarding Extension to the validity of seafarers' coc and Statutory certificates, periodical Surveys and Audits of Indian Registered Ships in view of covid 19 outbreak.

1. considering the prevailing COVID - 19 situation and even without any specific guidance from 'IMO with regards to extension of survey/inspection/audits and certification, the Directorate vide DGS order 6 of

2020, allowed extension of surveys/audits/inspections by RO for a period of 3-months after obtaining undertaking from the Master of the vessel for the satisfactory condition of the vessel and verification of past survey records, as deemed appropriate.

2. However, taking into cognizance IMo circular Letter No. 4204/Add.5 dated 17 March 2020, and, also considering that many seafarer due for sign off are unable to do so due to the current situation created by COVID - 19 and that their coc/cop/coE may be expiring and that they should not be forced to unnecessarily sail on vessels on the pretext of non-availability of seafarers or sign-off opportunity, the Directorate allowed extension of the validity of coc/cop/coE issued to a those seafarers for a limited period of one month. This extension was applicable to all those who were sailing onboard Indian flagged vessels and also Indian seafarers who were sailing on foreign Flag ships at the time of issue of the Order by a period of one month only and without any preconditions or submissions of request for the same.
3. Now after taking stock and assessing of the emerging COVID-19 situation, the Directorate hereby extends the expiry date of all STCW Certificates (includes the training certificates i.e., certificates required under Chapter YI of the STCII) and associated endorsements issued by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) which are expiring between 23'd March and 1" October 2020 (both dates inclusive), for a period of.6 (six) months from the expiry date printed/typed on the relevant certificate (COC/COP/COE). However, all those seafarers who meet the eligibility requirements for revalidation may make an application after the lifting of the lockdown period, to the Mercantile Marine Department for revalidation of their certificate of COC/COP/COE. Further, whenever the revalidation of the expired certificate is to be carried out, the new validity shall be issued for a period of five years from the original certificate expiry date.
4. There is no need to approach the DGS for any confirmation email of extension but may retain a copy of this order onboard for the guidance of officials should it be required.
5. The above extension is in the view of the prevailing extraordinary circumstances of the worldwide spread of COVID-19 and the country wide lockdown. The other part of DGS Order 6 of 2020 stand as it is.

Addendum No.2 to DGS Order 6 of 2020.

Regarding Extension to the validity of seafarers' CoC and Statutory Certificates, periodical Surveys and Audits of Indian Registered Ships in view of COVID 19 outbreak.

1. Vide DGS Order 6 of 2020, the Directorate has laid down the process of extension of mandatory surveys, inspections and audits by a period of 3-months under 'Force Majeure' brought about by COVID-19 pandemic. The Directorate has also waived off the processing fees for such extensions, except for cases pertaining to extension of dry-docking survey/ periodical / annual / renewal surveys.

2. Whereas, the Indian National Ship Owner Association and Indian Coastal Ship Owner Association have appealed to the Directorate to allow extension of dry-docking surveys / periodical / annual/ renewal surveys for a period beyond what is permitted by various IMO Conventions and also requested to waive off applicable processing fees for all such extensions due to continuing lockdown period and non-availability of servicing / repairing facilities arising out of COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Taking a pragmatic view of the situation, the Directorate has already decided to consider extensions of surveys/audits/inspections, beyond the periods permitted by IMO Conventions and also now decided to waive off the processing fees for all such extensions for a limited period. The waiver of processing fees will be applicable for new applications made to the DGS after issuance of this Order and for vessels whose surveys are falling due on or before 31st May 2020.

4. The extension of surveys beyond the IMO Convention provisions will be under the following conditions:
4.1.If the extension is granted beyond the IMO Convention provisions, the Company, prior entering any foreign load/discharge port, will take permission from relevant Maritime Authorities for acceptance of Statutory certificates.

4.2-As soon as the RO Surveyor is ready to board the vessel, company will offer the vessel for a general examination and Under Water CCTV Examination (only in cases where Docking Survey is extended) / Double Bottom Tank examination and Cargo hold examination (in the case of single hull Bulk Carriers). Continuation of extension will be subject to satisfactory results of these examinations by RO Surveyor.

5. After restoration of normalcy, it is the responsibility of the Company to bring back the ship to normal survey / audit cycle. However, Recognized Organization shall ensure that these vessels are brought back to normal survey / audit / inspection cycle as soon as possible by keeping them posted regularly of their obligations.

6. ROs recommending for extension shall keep following records and update them weekly and submit the same to Directorate on 3'd May 2020 and weekly thereafter:

6.1. List of vessels and details of exemptions / extensions granted to Indian vessels considering the situation developed due to COVID 19.

6.2. Details of such vessels offered for survey/audit/inspection after the lock down period and the status/records of such surveys /audits/inspections.

DG Shipping Order No. 13 of 2020

Extension to the validity of Seafarer's Certificates and Ship's Statutory Certificates, periodical Surveys & Audits in view of COVID-19 pandemic.

The revised procedure for extension of Statutory Certificates are as below:

1) Extension of Annual/Periodical Surveys and Initial/Intermediate/Renewal Inspections/Audits by three months:

Since no extension of annual/periodical surveys are permitted under the Conventions, the Company shall

make all efforts to ensure Surveyor of the Recognized Organization boards the vessel to conduct surveys/inspections/audits prior to expiry date. In case servicing suppliers are not available, such surveys can be kept part held pending completion of same and accordingly recommend for extension. In case the RO Surveyor cannot board the vessel, RO to recommend the same for extension based on Master/CE/DPA declaration and verification of past survey/inspection history records. Though the extension may be granted for 3 months, the RO and Company shall monitor and ensure that at first available opportunity the Surveyor of RO boards the vessel and completes the survey/inspection/audit.

2) Extension of Renewal/Docking Surveys beyond Convention allowed period:

Company shall make all efforts to ensure RO Surveyor boards the vessel for progressing with the renewal surveys as far as possible and carrying out a general examination, examination of Cargo Holds in case of Single Hull Bulk Carriers for extension of renewal surveys beyond 3months of expiry date and examination of Double Bottom Tanks and underwater examination for extension of Docking Survey beyond 36months period since last docking. Usual procedures for extension to be applied when extension requested is within what is permissible under the Convention. When extension is granted without a Surveyor visit (based only on review of past survey/inspection record, Master/CE declaration and RO recommendation), as soon as the RO Surveyor is ready to board the vessel, company will offer the vessel for completion of surveys as far as possible and a general examination for remaining items and Under Water CCTV Examination (only in cases where Docking Survey is extended) and Double Bottom Tank examination (all cases of renewal surveys) and Cargo hold examination (in the case of single hull Bulk Carriers renewal surveys). Continuation of extension will be subject to satisfactory results of these examinations by RO Surveyor.

3) Exemptions from Safe Manning Document:

Where the Ship owners/Operators/managers need to sign-off a crew member from a vessel due to the port restrictions at some ports and travel restrictions and the Ship owners/Operator/Manager is unable to place a reliever, exemptions to Safe Manning Documents will be considered on a case by case basis. Each request should be supported by risk assessment from the company. There will be no fees charged for these

exemptions and exemptions will be issued on email.

The extension of surveys beyond the IMO convention provisions will be under the following conditions:

i) If the extension is granted beyond the IMO Convention provisions, the Company, prior entering any foreign load/discharge port, will take permission from relevant Maritime Authorities for acceptance of statutory certificates.

ii) Enhanced monitoring of ship by shore staff to ensure safety and security of ship and seafarer during this period of extension. Procedure for such monitoring to be developed and approved by DPA (for ISM/DDOC vessels) and records to be maintained for verification at next audit/FSI.

Extension of seafarer certificate of Competency/proficiency/Recognition of Equivalence (COC / COP / COE):

All STCW certificates (includes the training certificates i.e., certificates required under Chapter VI of the STCW) and associated endorsements issued by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) which are expiring between 1st March and 31st December 2020 (both dates inclusive), shall stand extended for a period of 6 (six) months from the expiry date printed/typed on the relevant certificate (COC, COP, COE), irrespective of whether the seafarer is/was on ship at the time of expiry or not. However, all those seafarers who meet the eligibility requirements for revalidation may make an application after the lifting of the lockdown period, to the Mercantile Marine Department for revalidation of their COC/COP/COE. Further, whenever tie revalidation of the expired certificate is to be carried out, the new validity shall be issued for a period of five years from the original certificate expiry date. Notwithstanding above, the candidate's should not wait for the expiry of the extension period granted and should endeavor to get his COC revalidated after completing the online / offline courses, as applicable to their COC at the earliest opportunity.

After restoration of normalcy, it is the responsibility of the company to bring back the ship to normal survey

/ audit cycle. For this the Ro shall assist the company so as to ensure that these vessels are brought back to normal survey / audit / inspection cycle as soon as possible by keeping them posted regularly of their obligations.

Ros recommending for extension shall keep following records and update them weekly and submit the same to Directorate on a weekly basis:

1) List of vessels and details of exemptions / extensions granted to Indian vessels on account of the situation developed due to COVID-19. 2) Details of such vessels offered for survey/audit/inspection after the lock down period and the status/records of such surveys/ audits/ inspections.

DGS, Order No. 16 of 2020 (IR Class Circular)

1. Reference is made to Technical Circular No. 083/2020, dated 23 May 2020 and DGS, Order No. 13 of 2020 regarding Extension to the validity of Seafarers Certificates in view of COVID-19 outbreak

2. DGS Order No. 13 of 2020 provided following in respect of the extension of the validity of Seafarer's certificates –

“All STCW certificates (including the training certificates i.e., certificates required under Chapter VI of the STCW) and associated endorsements issued by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) which are expiring between 01st March and 31st December 2020 (both dates inclusive), were extended for a period of 6 (six) months from the expiry date printed / typed on the relevant certificate (CoC / CoP/ CoE), irrespective of whether the seafarer is / was on ship at the time of expiry or not”.

3. Indian Administration vide DGS Order No.16 of 2020 has now provided following revised requirements in respect of the extension of the validity of Seafarer's certificates –

a. All Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency for all Seafarers (including the training certificates required under Chapter V or VI of the STCW Convention, or their Refresher Training as prescribed under the STCW Convention, as amended or as per the guidance provided in the Maritime Labour Convention, as amended) and the associated endorsements issued by or under the authority of the DGS, which have expired or are expiring on or before 31st December 2020, who comply with the provisions of the STCW Convention as amended in 2010, which is attached as Annex 1 to DGS Order 16 of 2020, shall be deemed to be REVALIDATED till 31st December 2021, irrespective of whether the Seafarer is/was on ship at the time of expiry or not.

b. However, the above interim revalidation is only applicable for the purpose of allowing the Seafarer to join ships with either existing expired or expiring certificates and not for issuance of new COCs or new endorsements. For issuance of new CoCs or new endorsements, the existing requirements will continue to be applied.

c. No application is required to be made for aforesaid interim revalidation.

d. Notwithstanding the above, whenever the revalidation of the expired certificate is to be carried out, the normal processes /fees will be applicable and the new validity date will be for a period of five years from the original date of expiry of the certificate.

e. Seafarers and the shipping companies, including Recruitment and Placement Services (RPS) are required to ensure that the concerned seafarers have a print-out of their sea service record from the seafarers profile Master Checker available with them, which can be obtained from the E-Governance system.

4. Ship owners/ operators and Masters of Indian flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.

DGS Order 17 of 2020 (29.06.2020)

1. Noting that there have been difficulties faced by Shipowners to meet the statutory requirements in maintaining the validity of ship and seafarer certificates, due to force majeure situation posed by COVID-19 resulting lock-down of many countries around the world including India, the Directorate vide DGS Order 6 of 2020 dated 23 March 2020, allowed extension of Ship's Statutory Certificates on a case to case basis by three months and extension of one month to the validity of Seafarer Certificate of Competency/Proficiency/Recognition of Equivalence.
2. Noting further that the continued lock-down has resulted in non-availability of Recognized organization Surveyors, service suppliers and dry-docks, the Directorate vide Addendum No.2 to DGS order 6 of 2020 dated 21st April 2020, allowed extension of ship statutory certificates expiring on/before 31st May 2020, beyond what is permitted by various International Conventions, subject to a Risk assessment carried out by Recognized Organization, and imposition of certain specific conditions such as enhanced monitoring of ships from shore by ship managers/owners during this period of extension.
3. Even though the lock-down started easing out with effect from end May 2020, yet many ship-owners faced problems in docking their vessels, either due to continued closure of the dry-docks or inability of the ship-owners to attend his ship at dry-dock due-to non-availability of flights to foreign destinations, the Directorate vide DGS Order 13 of 2020, allowed extension of ship statutory certificates expiring on/before 30th June 2020 under revised conditions such as ensuring attendance of the vessel by Recognized, organization, wherever possible, for progressing of the surveys as far as practicable.
4. Now, the Indian National Ship owner Association has requested extension of Statutory certificates expiring on/prior to 31st August 2020 citing the prevailing waiting period at various dry-docks around world, which are operating at full capacity to clear pending ships requiring dry-dock.
5. Recognizing the changing situation world-wide and also noting that Recognized Organizations have

started carrying out surveys at an increasing number of ports worldwide' the Directorate now reviews its procedure for grant of extension of statutory certificates to ships whose statutory surveys are expiring after 30th June 2020 but on/prior to 31st August 2020 and, the revised procedure as laid down in the following paragraphs will apply.

6. The DGS Order 13 of 2020 dated, 21st May 2020 remains applicable for ships with statutory certificates expiring on/prior 30 June 2020 and thereafter this order will replace and will be in force till 31st August 2020.

7. The Risk assessment by RO, where-ever mentioned in this order, is to be based on past survey and inspection history, satisfactory continuation of past imposed Condition of Class/Statutory Condition, if any, declaration by Master and CE that they have carried out a satisfactory general examination and a declaration by DpA/Owner/Manager that there is no known defect in any part of hull, machinery, fittings and equipment.

8. The revised procedure for extension of Annual/Periodical Statutory Surveys or Interim/initial/intermediate/Renewal Audits/Inspections :

a) It is to be noted that, the Convention provisions provide sufficient time ranging between 3-12 months to the ship owners to complete these surveys/inspections/audits. Therefore, all efforts should be made by all owners to offer their ships to the RO for surveys, in case these are within the range period.

b) In general, no extension shall be granted/considered unless the Recognized Organization provides in writing that the Surveyor cannot attend the vessel due to lock-down at any port visited by the ship, after the issue of this order.

c) Even if an extension is to be considered on a case to case basis, same will be after a satisfactory Risk assessment, and same shall only be granted for the period to enable the ship to reach a port where Recognized organization Surveyor can attend the vessel.

9. The procedure for extension of Intermediate surveys shall be:

a) No extension shall be granted for a period more than 3-months after the due date of intermediate survey or 42 months since last dry-dock or the date of availability of dry-dock plus 15 days, which-ever is earlier.

b) This extension shall be granted only upon submission of a firm evidence of date of dry-dock availability from the selected dry-dock.

c) The Surveys related to Statutory Certificates not requiring dry-dock (such as Safety Equipment/Radio/IOPP/IAPP etc.) shall be completed either prior extension or at the first port, where RO Surveyor can board the vessel during the period of extension.

d) The extension of Surveys of Statutory Certificates requiring dry-dock(Such as load-line/Safety Construction etc.) shall be extended based on RO recommendation after satisfactory general examination of hull, machinery, fittings (structural and nonstructural) and equipment, satisfactory thickness measurement, as applicable, examination of fore-peak ballast tank, aft-peak ballast tank and other representative water-ballast tanks, examination of fore-most and aft Cargo holds and one other Cargo Hold in case of Single-Hull Bulk Carriers and a CCTV examination of the underwater portion of the hull, appendages, propeller and rudder.

e) The above Survey for extension is to be carried out either prior extension or at first port after extension, where RO Surveyor can board the vessel. Extension without the stated surveys' even till the next port where a RO Surveyor can attend the ship shall be granted only after a Risk Assessment.

10. Extension of Renewal surveys beyond three months from expiry date:

a) For extension of renewal surveys by 3-months from expiry date or 36 months since last dry-dock, which-ever is earlier, the usual procedure for extension shall apply.

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| | | <p>b) No extension shall be granted for a period more than 6-months after the due date of renewal survey or 42 months since last dry-dock or date of availability of dry-dock plus 15 days, which-ever is earlier.</p> <p>c) This extension shall be granted only upon submission of a firm evidence of date of dry-dock availability from the selected dry-dock.</p> <p>d) The Surveys related to Statutory Certificates not requiring dry-dock shall be completed to-the extent possible either prior extension or at first port, where RO Surveyor can board the vessel during the period of extension. A risk assessment to be
Conducted for items outstanding to be completed at dry-dock such as 5-yearly load testing of life-boat/rescue boat and launching appliances and recommended for extension with the Risk assessment.</p> <p>e) The Surveys of Statutory Certificates requiring dry-dock to be progressed as far as practicable. The extension shall be based on RO recommendation after a satisfactory general examination of hull, machinery, fitting (structural and nonstructural), equipment's, satisfactory thickness measurement, as applicable, examination of fore-peak ballast tank, aft-peak ballast tank and other representative water-ballast tanks, examination of fore-most and aft Cargo holds and one other Cargo Hold in case of Single-Hull Bulk Carriers and a CCTV examination of the underwater portion of the hull, appendages, propeller and rudder.</p> <p>f) These Surveys are to be carried out either prior extension or at first port after extension, where RO Surveyor can board the vessel. Extension without the stated surveys even till the next port where a RO Surveyor can attend the ship shall be granted only after a Risk Assessment.</p> <p>g) In case Service supplier for 5-yearly load test of life-boat/rescue boat and launching appliances is unable to attend due to any reason, Owner can appoint any other local Service supplier who is approved by Directorate but may not be approved by Manufacturer and the testing to be conducted in presence of RO</p> |
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Surveyor.

11. Exemptions from Safe Manning Document: Any dispensation from safe manning shall be on case to case basis where-in a seafarer is signed-off in an emergency and a risk assessment is submitted.

12. The waiver of applicable extension fees as applicable for surveys falling due on/before 30 June 2020 shall also be applicable to ships to which this order applies.

13. The extension of surveys beyond the IMO Convention provisions will be under the following conditions.

a) If the extension is granted beyond the IMO Convention provisions, the Company, prior entering any foreign load/discharge port, will take permission from relevant Maritime Authorities for acceptance of statutory certificates.

b) The Company should ensure increased monitoring of ship for safety of ship and seafarer by shore staff during this period of extension. Procedure for such monitoring to be developed and approved by DPA (for ISM/DDOC vessels) and records to be maintained for verification at next audit/FSI.

14. All Port State Control officer are hereby advised to take a pragmatic approach while inspecting foreign ships visiting India till further orders. Foreign ships with statutory Certificates, having similar extension of Annual/Periodical/ Surveys by 3-months from expiry date and Interim/Initial/intermediate/Renewal Audit/Inspection by 3-months beyond expiry date, 42-month period since last dry-docking and renewal surveys extension by 6-months beyond expiry date may be accepted. No ship shall be detained for any other period of extension unless approved by concerned principal officer based on present condition of ship.

Standard Operating Procedures For extending validity of Certificates of those Seafarers whose Certificates are expiring after 31st December, 2020 but intending to join ships on or before 31st October 2020

(30.06.2020)

1. Considering the Force Majeure, caused by COVID-19 pandemic, the Directorate vide DGS Order No 16 of 2020 has extended all STCW certificates and associated endorsements issued by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) which are expiring on or before 31st December 2020, till 31 December 2021, irrespective of whether the seafarer is / was on ship at the time of expiry or not.

2. To facilitate those Seafarers who do not fall under the purview of above provisions, the Directorate has devised this SOP for extension of CoC / CoP of seafarers who are planning to join a ship but unable to fulfil all the necessary requirements for re-validation.

3. This SOP is applicable only to seafarers who are intending to join ship prior to 31st October 2020 with certificates validity expiring after 31st December 2020. All seafarer intending to join ship after 31st October 2020 with certificates expiring after 31st December 2020, will have to undergo courses and revalidate their certificates in normal way as training institutes are expected to be functional by that time.

4. Procedures for revalidation / refresher of CoC / CoP issued under Chapter II, III, IV, V, VI and VII of STCW under force majeure conditions:

a) Capt Girdhar Shenoy, NS for Nautical grades and Shri P. Gopinandan, E&SS for Engineering grades has been appointed by the Competent Authority as the contact person and all applications for extensions should be submitted to them at gp.shenoy@gov.in and gopinandanp-dgs@gov.in , respectively.

b) Copies of following documents duly self-attested to be submitted to the aforesaid contact persons along with the application.

- Demonstration of continuous professional competence as stated in annex-I i.e., copies of relevant pages of CoC, CoP (FPFF, AFF, PST, PSCRB, MFA, Tanker endorsements and sea services), copies of CDC and Sea-service testimonials etc. as applicable.

- Letter of contract from company about joining and period of contract.
 - Address where re-validation letter can be forwarded.
5. After satisfactory review of application, a letter extending the validity of CoC and relevant Cop till 31 December 2021 shall be issued by e-mail to the given address only without payment of requisite fees.
6. When the Candidate comes for re-validation, his CoC shall only be re-validated for a period of 5- years, after completion of all requirements, from the date of original expiry of CoC.

Extension of Certificate of Competency and Certificate of Proficiency (28.04.2021)

1. Whereas the onset of COVID-19 pandemic in India, led to adoption of several precautionary measures, and one such measure was closure of Maritime Training Institutes (MTI), to protect and safeguard seafarer and associated people working in the MTI from getting infected from the virus.
2. Whereas the closure of MTIs led to issuance of following Orders/Circulars/Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) as and when the situation demanded for extension of Seafarer Certificate of Competency (COC) and Certificate of Proficiency (COP) so as to ensure seafarers are able to join ships with valid COC/COP for movement / transportation of cargo / people:
 - 2.1. DG Shipping Order No. 06 of 2020 dated 23.03.2020 extending validity of Seafarer COC/COP by one-month for those seafarer who were on- board ships on date of issue of this Order.
 - 2.2. Addendum No. 1 to DGS Order 6 of 2020 dated 03.04.2020 extending seafarer COC/COP expiring between 23 March and 1 October 2020 (both dates inclusive), for a period of 6 (six) months from the expiry date printed/typed on the relevant certificate (COC/COP).
 - 2.3. DGS Order 13 of 2020 dated 21 May 2020 extending the seafarer COC/COP expiring between 1st March and 31st December 2020 (both dates inclusive), for a period of 6 (six) months from the expiry date printed/typed on the relevant certificate (COC/COP).
 - 2.4. DGS Order 16 of 2020 dated 22.06.2020 extending the validity of COC/COP till 31 December 2021 of all those seafarers which were expiring on/prior to 31 December 2020 and have demonstrated continued professional competence through approved sea service.
 - 2.5. SOP dated 30.06.2020 for extending validity of COC/COP of all those seafarers who were joining ship prior to 31 October 2020 and their certificates were expiring after 31 December 2020.
3. Whereas the Directorate issued DGS Order 20 of 2020 dated 03.08.2020 for restarting the training of seafarer through a three-tier training methodology for conduct of mandatory revalidation courses without the seafarer visiting the MTI for revalidation of COP and revalidation of COC.
4. With the aforesaid re-start of training processes, the Directorate has restricted the extension granted to seafarer joining ship on/prior to 31st October 2020 to 31st August 2020.

5. Noting the problem faced by shipping companies to immediately get seafarer to get their COC/COP revalidated for limited period vide DGS Order 20 of 2020, the Directorate issued following Orders from time to time extending validity of COC/COP of seafarers:
 - 5.1. DGS Order 24 of 2020 dated 24.08.2020 relaxed the restriction imposed via DGS Order 16 of 2020, that is restriction of joining ship on/prior to 31st August 2020 for availing extension benefit, allowed to be extended from 31st August 2020 till 30 September 2020.
 - 5.2. DGS Order 26 of 2020 dated 30.09.2020 has further relaxed the above limitation on extension. Through this order Master and Officers could avail benefit of extension of COC granted under DGS Order 16 of 2020, if they join ship on/prior to 31 October 2020 and for rating this date of joining ship for availing extension was extended to 31 December 2020.
 - 5.3. DGS Order 33 of 2020 dated 03.11.2020 has further relaxed the above limitation on extension. Master and Officers could avail benefit of extension of COC granted under DGS Order 16 of 2020, if they join ship on/prior to 30 November 2020.
6. Whereas noting backlog of seafarer requiring extension, the Directorate issued DGS Order 01 of 2021 dated 01.01.2021 extending validity of COC/COP till 31.12.2021 of those seafarer who join ship on/prior to 31 March 2021 and have not availed any extension under any previous Order/SOP.
7. Whereas the sudden surge in number of COVID-19 cases, due to its second wave, in all parts of India and corresponding travel ban and local restrictions, the seafarers finds it difficult to revalidate their COC/COP.
8. In consideration of the urgency and that the seafarers are required to man the ships to continue transportation of goods/people and that they need to be in possession of valid COC/COP, the Directorate hereby extends all Seafarer COC/COP till **31st December 2021** or one contract, whichever is **later** and **irrespective of** whether a seafarer has availed extension under any previous Order/SOP **OR** is ashore **OR** on board the ship at the time of issue of this Order subject to following conditions:
 - 8.1. Master and Officer who are ashore demonstrate continued professional competence on the date of issue of this Order by following way:
 - 8.1.1. **Extension of COC/COP under Regulation II, III or VI of the STCW Convention except Dangerous Cargo Endorsements:** Section A-I/11 of the STCW Convention - Professional Competence: Continued professional competence as required under regulation I/11 shall be established by: Approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
 - 8.1.1.1. Twelve months in total during the preceding five years, or
 - 8.1.1.2. Three months in total during the preceding six months immediately prior to revalidating;

		<p>8.1.1.3. Ship-owners & RPSL Companies shall verify aforesaid requirements as required vide STCW Regulation I/14, paragraph 1.1 prior employing the seafarer.</p> <p>8.1.2. COP for Dangerous Cargo under Regulation V of the STCW Convention: Continued professional competence for tankers, as required under Regulation I/11, shall be established by:</p> <p>8.1.2.1. Approved seagoing service, performing the duties appropriate to the tanker certificate or endorsement held, for a period of at least three months in total during the preceding five years; or</p> <p>8.1.2.2. Successfully completing an approved relevant training course or courses.</p> <p>8.2. There is no requirement for demonstration of Continued Professional Competency, as required under 8.1, for Ratings, Electro Technical Officers (ETO) and other petty officers such as pump man / Fitter, etc who have sailed on ships in last five years and for all those seafarers who are already on board ship to avail the benefit of extension under this Order.</p> <p>9. This Order is valid till 31st July 2021, that is, Seafarer joining ships on/prior to 31st July 2021 can avail of the benefit of extension under this Order.</p>
6.	Iran	<p>Circular Letter No.4216</p> <p>Matters related to surveys, inspections, certification and/or renewal of Statutory certificates, including the CLC, BCLC, Wreck removal, ISSC, DOC of safety management companies that are issued by the Ports and Maritime Organization as duly authorized maritime administration of the Iran, Statutory certificates issued by the RO on behalf of this administration, and the seafarers documents and certificates, which needs to be available on board vessels in accordance with IMO circulars which will expire by January, February or April 2020, are hereby extended until 31 May 2020.</p> <p>Circular Letter No.4216/Add.1</p>

Considering the growing outbreak of the novel coronavirus and the recommendations by the World Health Organization on the importance of such a public health emergency condition which is of international concern and the need for medical care of seafarers while working onboard, PMO has considered some specific conditions for the facilitation of seafarers' documentation, including:

1- the extension of CoPs, CoCs, and medical certificates with validity of one year or longer, which will be expired during the onset of coronavirus until September 21, 2020, , will be additionally extended 6 months after the expiry of the certificates.

2- For dispensation and endorsement of foreign certificates, through addressing the situation of seafarers who are facing expiration of essential certificates, the validity of the certificates which are within the period of outbreak of coronavirus until the end of September 21, 2020, will be extended for 6 months after the expiry dates of the certificates.

In addition, there have been some more considerations for presenting the theoretical and practical training courses for seafarers, which are to be held online for theoretical courses and for practical trainings, the participants should take part in compliance with the rules during the outbreak, with a limited number and respecting the social distancing regulations.

Circular Letter No.4216/Add.2

This is to refer to the Circular Letter No.4216, and inform you that as the Covid19 Pandemic continues, and in order to properly control and address it, all matters related to surveys, inspections, certification and/or renewal of statutory certificates, including the CLC, BCLC, Wreck Removal, ISSC, DOC of safety management companies that are issued by the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) as the duly authorized maritime administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, statutory certificates issued by recognized organizations on

behalf of this administration, and the seafarers' documents and certificates, which need to be available on board vessels in accordance with IMO circular No. FAL.2/Circ.131, MEPC.1/Circ.873, MSC.1/Circ.1586 and LEG.2/Circ.3, dated 19 July 2017, and which will expire by March, April and May 2020, are hereby extended until 31.07.2020.

Circular Letter No.4216/Add.3

Considering the Circular Letter 4204/Add.19/Rev.2 of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) dated 22 July 2020, in order to control the spread of the COVID-19 in the year 2020, postponement in the provision of services related to surveying vessels, issuing technical and safety certificates as per the provisions of international conventions and national legislations, and extending the validity of such certificates for vessels operating under the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this procedure has been developed and communicated to provide the conditions for extension or endorsement of certificates or postponement of statutory surveys for the Iranian flagged vessels in the framework of the aforementioned circular letter. The graphic presentation of this procedure is provided in the Annex.

1. Survey by Other Classification Societies

In cases where during the issuance or extension of technical and safety certificates for vessels, other classification societies in contract with the relevant classification society are authorized to conduct surveys, it is required that all statutory surveys be conducted in full for each vessel, under the provisions of international conventions and national legislations.

2. Considering Technical History & Records of Vessels

If the assessment of the technical records and information of the vessel in the flag/port State control inspection, records of previous conditions of surveys by the classification society, current conditions of the classification society or the like points to significant concerns about safety, navigation limitations, repairs for the vessel or threat of marine pollution, the relevant classification society shall conduct the periodical

surveys of the vessel according to the appointed schedule, with priority for safety aspects. In such cases, extension or endorsement of statutory certificates, or postponement of surveys is not possible. If the technical records and information of the vessel do not entail excessive concerns about safety, navigation limitations, repairs for the vessel or threat of pollution for the marine environment, it is permissible for the relevant classification society to extend or endorse statutory certificates, or postpone surveys of the vessel up to 30 September 2020, after informing the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of the qualification of the vessel and seeking the approval of that administration. The classification society shall inform the qualification of the vessel to the registering authority, through providing the following documentation:

1. Evidence of risk assessment, commensurate with certificate extension or survey postponement for the specified duration;
2. Objective evidence and documents obtained during the initial assessment of the technical records and information of the vessel, and commencement of the survey process in the procedures of the classification society;
3. Technical recommendations and conditions for maintenance requirements for the specified duration for certificate extension or survey postponement for the vessel, in due consideration of the objective evidence and documents obtained during the initial assessment; and
4. Recommendation on how the control measures are to be applied to the operation of the vessel for the specified duration for certificate extension or survey postponement.

3. Seeking Approval of Maritime Administration

Temporary approval of the qualification of a vessel for certificate extension or survey postponement is possible by the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), only upon the receipt of the documentation specified in Article 3 above.

4. Using Assessment Requirements Based on Approved Survey Methods

Documents and evidence obtained, documentation of the risk assessment and technical conditions, along with the recommendation on how the control measures are to be applied to the operation of the vessel for

the specified duration until the physical survey and the approval of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) shall be maintained on board the vessel, for future external audits.

5. Vessel Survey Schedule

The classification society shall take the required measures to arrange the schedule for statutory surveys, expiry of technical and safety certificates, and dry dock appointments of vessels owned by natural or legal persons in a manner that the operation of their maritime fleet is not unduly delayed due to survey, and their dry dock appointments is determined as per the capacity of the relevant dry docks.

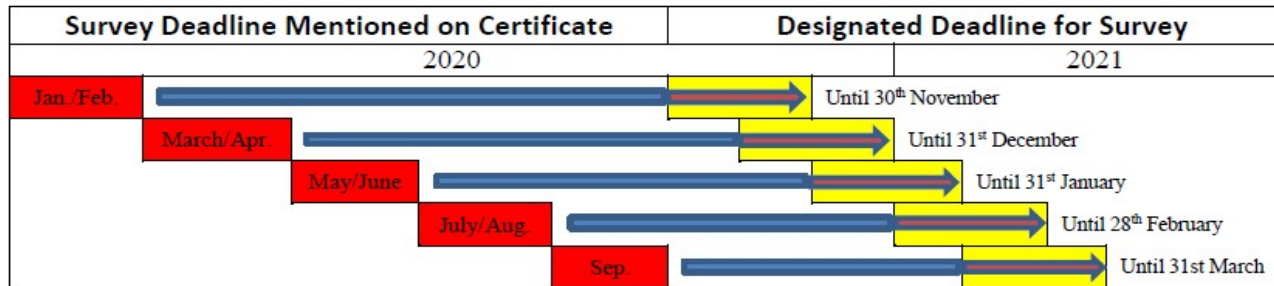
Circular Letter No.4216/Add.4

Procedure for Extending or Endorsing Certificates or Postponing Statutory Surveys for Vessels Operating under the Flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Flag State Survey and Statutory Certification

Considering the extension of the validity of statutory certificates for vessels in the past months as a result of the limitations imposed by the spread of the COVID-19, and pursuant to the considerations of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of the conditions of vessels, all surveyors and classification societies should conduct surveys of such certificates in accordance with the following timetable, based on the validity dates of the mentioned certificates.

No.	Survey Deadline Mentioned on Certificate	Designated Deadline for Survey
1	January/February 2020	Until 30 th November 2020
2	March/April 2020	Until 31 st December 2020
3	May/June 2020	Until 31 st January 2021
4	July/August 2020	Until 28 th February 2021
5	September 2020	Until 31 st March 2021



Seafarers' Certification

In accordance to circular No. 4216 dated 05.05.2020 concerning the extension of the seafarers' certificates, it should be further noted that for ensuring the well-being of seafarers and providing for crew change during this time, all seafarers' certificates (including the CoCs, CoPs, medical certificates, and the like) expiring within the period starting from the onset of COVID-19 Pandemic until 20 March 2021, will still be considered as valid until 20 March 2021.

Further Requirements

The following requirements should be considered in this respect:

- Previous certificates issued by PMO/classification societies may be extended temporarily until the relevant

deadlines.

- Surveys/Audits should be scheduled in a manner that prevents leaving the bulk of surveys for the end of the two-month periods, and the resulting consequences.
- Upon the owner's request, surveys/Audits may be conducted before the period designated in the above table.
- For all vessels with extended certificates, ISPS audits and MLC inspection and company (DOC) audits should be conducted within three months, until 31st December 2020.
- Ship SMC audits for all vessels with extended certificates, vessels should be conducted within one month after the deadlines mentioned in the above table.
- Special cases should be considered and decided by PMO, upon the request by the owner/classification society of the vessel.
- The extended period should be deducted from the five-year validity period of new certificates (if issued) or the next survey/audit deadlines, in a manner that the HSSC system is maintained for the vessel.
- In any case, the new certificates (if issued) should not be valid for more than five years after the expiry of the previous certificates.
- Owners, managers and masters of vessels should provide the required conditions for surveys to be conducted in compliance with relevant health protocols pertaining to COVID-19, issued by WHO, IMO and the like.
- Surveyors should observe the relevant health protocols pertaining to COVID-19 at all times during the survey procedure.

Circular Letter No.4216/Add.5 18 March 2021

Extension of Seafarers' certificates



In The Name Of God
Ministry of Road & Urban Development
Ports and Maritime Organization

No.: ٤٢١٦ /Exp /٢١
Date: 16/03/2021
Ref.:

International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment London
SE 1 7SR United Kingdom
Fax: +44(0) 2075873210
Email: info@imo.org

Secretary General of IMO
Subject: Extension of Seafarers' certificates

H.E. Kitack Lim
Secretary General of IMO

With reference to the Circular letter 4216, regarding the extension of the validity of the seafarers' certificates during the Covid 19 pandemic, I would like to further update you on our new measures.

Based on the conditions for the extension of seafarers' certificates including endorsements, COCs, COPs and medical certificates, we would like to grant further extensions from the onset of Covid 19 outbreak until 21 September 2021.

We would therefore like to ask the secretariat to kindly consider the extension of the seafarers' certificates and have this information communicated to all member states of IMO.

Your valuable attention to this matter is highly appreciated.
Yours Sincerely,

Mohammad Rastad
Vice Minister and Managing Director of PMO

Circular Letter No.4216/Add.6 14 September 2021



PMO

IN THE NAME OF GOD

Ministry of Road & Urban Development

Ports and Maritime Organization

№: 147/Exp/1.11

Date: 31/08/2021

Ref.: _____

International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment London
SE 1 7SR United Kingdom
Fax: +44(0) 2075873210
Email: info@imo.org
H.E. Kitack Lim
Secretary General of IMO
Subject: Extension of Seafarers' certificates

With reference to the Circular letter 4216, regarding the extension of the validity of the seafarers' certificates during the Covid 19 pandemic, I would like to further update you on our new measures.

Based on the conditions for the extension of the seafarers' certificates including Endorsements, COCs, COPs and medical certificates, we would like to grant further extensions from the onset of Covid 19 outbreak until 20 March 2022.

It is highly appreciated if you consider the issue and communicate it to all member states of IMO

Best Regards

Mohammad Rastad
Vice Minister and Managing Director of PMO

7.

Kenya

[CL.4286 \(30 April 2020\)](#)

Marine Notice dated 16.04.2020

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 2009 DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PERIOD

TO: Ship Owners, Seafarers, Surveyors, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Boat Owners/Operators, Shipping Agents and Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Agents

VALIDITY OF STATUTORY CERTIFICATES

All certificates that are to expire between 1st March 2020 and 31st August 2020 and whose scheduled survey, inspection or audit may not be possible are hereby extended for a period of three months or until a new survey, inspection or audit will be conducted. Ship owners, seafarers and boat operators are however advised to maintain the ships/boats in the same condition as indicated in the Certificates during the extension period.

SEAFARERS' DOCUMENTS

6.1 Certificates Affected

In view of the challenges in updating seafarers' documents due to restriction of movement and social distancing measures, the Authority hereby grants an extension for the validity of the following certificates/documents which expire or are due to expire between 1st March 2020 and 31st August 2020:

- a) Certificates of Competency (CoCs);
- b) Certificates of Proficiency (CoPs); and
- c) Seafarer Medical Certificates.
- d) Seafarer Discharge books (CDCs)

6.2 Validity of Certificates

The validity of CoCs and CoPs, which are due to expire, will be granted an extended validity of six months (from date of expiry) or until 1st October 2020, whichever is earlier

		<p>The validity of STCW, Non- STCW and Medical Certificates, which are due to expire, is hereby extended for six months (from date of expiry) or until 1 “October 2020, whichever is earlier.</p> <p>Seafarers who are unable to renew a filled-up discharge book should request that all seafarer discharges or engagements are recorded on paper (paper discharge) or testimonials issued upon disengagement from the ship.</p> <p>Seafarers who are currently onboard/working with expired documents that meet the expiry criteria as stated must carry the expired document with a copy of this Notice for inspection and presentation when requested to do so.</p>
8.	Madagascar	Refer to circular letter No. 4318 dated 18 August 2020
9.	Maldives	<p>1. Maldives Maritime Administration has issued Circular No. INT-2020/001 providing instructions with regards to extension of expiry dates of Seafarers Certificates and trading certificates issued to Maldivian flagged vessels as outlined below due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>a. Extension of the validity of Seafarers Certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Certificate of Competency (CoCs) expiring on or after 01st March 2020 will be extended for six (6) months from the date of expiry of the certificate on seafarer’s application. ii. Mandatory short courses required for the revalidation of CoC will also be extended for six (6) months on seafarer’s application. iii. Medical Fitness certificates expiring on or after 01st March 2020 are extended until 30th June 2020.

b. Extension of the validity of Trading Certificates:

- iv. Trading certificates issued to Maldivian flagged vessels expiring on or after 01st March 2020 are extended until 30th June 2020.

c. Extension of Port Facility Permits:

- v. Port Facility Permits expiring on or after 01st March 2020 are extended until 30th June 2020.
2. Ship owners/ operators and masters of Maldivian flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.

Circular Letter No.4256/Add.1 1 February 2022

1. More than 80% of world traded goods are carried over the sea. Ships are the main transport arteries for global trade and seafarers are essential to keep up with the movements at sea. During the pandemic, restrictions have left thousands of seafarers stranded and number of seafarers unable to join ships. To ensure unhampered flow of essential goods especially critical medical supplies, seafarers rightfully deserve to be designated as “Key Workers”. Therefore, to facilitate their unhindered movement, safe travel and vaccination, key worker designation is essential to exempt seafarers from specific COVID-related restrictions, allowing them to travel between their country of residence and ships, and to be repatriated at the end of their contracts.
2. In line with IMO MSC.1/Circ.1636/Rev.1 (22nd April 2021) Maldives hereby, declare seafarers as “Key Workers” and will comply with industry recommended framework of protocols for ensuring safe ship crew changes and travel during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. Maldivian authorities will ensure and facilitate crew change for seafarers in line with health protocols.
3. In line with IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.38 (25 March 2021) with regard to Joint Statement of IMO, ICAO ILO, WHO and IOM calling on Governments to prioritize COVID-19 vaccination for seafarers. From the date of issue, concerned authorities of the Maldives will facilitate and prioritize seafarers’ vaccination.
4. In line with resolution MSC.473 (ES.2) Maldives assigns Capt. Adhil Rasheed as designate Focal Point on Crew Change and Repatriation of Seafarers, to coordinate action and communication. Focal point contact details: Tel: + 960 334 3452 Mobile: + 960 999 8700 Email: maritime@transport.gov.mv
5. All relevant, concerned agencies, organizations, bodies are advised through this circular to facilitate seafarer as keyworker and prioritize their vaccination and repatriation as appropriate.
6. This circular will enter into force from 13th January 2022.

10.	Mauritius	Mauritius Merchant Shipping Notice, MSN-18/2020 Reg. Vessels and Seafarer’s certificates during the
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		<p>Covid-19 Pandemic (IR class circular)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Mauritius flag Administration has issued Merchant Shipping Notice Ref. MSN-18 of 2020 providing instructions with regards to extension of Seafarers Certificates, Seafarers Employment Agreement (SEA), statutory surveys, audits, inspections etc. as outlined below due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. 2. Administration has informed that in case the authorized RO is unable to attend the vessel to complete a survey or inspection leading to the endorsement or renewal of a relevant certificate, then after due authorization a short-term certificate may be issued with validity of not more than 3 months from the date of expiration of the current certificate or the closure of the required window for the conduct of the required activity. It remains the responsibility of the Operator and the Master to ensure that the vessel is maintained and operated in accordance with the statutory requirements for the duration of the short-term certificate. 3. On expiration of the short-term certificate, or earlier if circumstances permit, a survey or inspection, must be completed and a new certificate issued, aligned with the expiration date of the previous certificate. 4. Annex 1 of the Merchant Shipping Notice No. 18 of 2020 provides clarification on queries raised in respect of seafarers' certificates, ships' surveys, further extensions and remote surveys. 5. Ship owners/ operators and masters of Mauritius flagged ships are advised to be guided by above. <p>For detailed information please go through the circular.</p>
11.	Myanmar	<p>Circular Letter No.4246</p> <p>The Department of Marine Administration shall extend the validity of their STCW certificates including medical certificate for the duration of up to six months from the date of expiry.</p> <p>Circular Letter No.4246/Add.2</p>

The purpose of this Marine Guidance is to extend the survey, audit and inspection windows and allow to continue working in maritime trade for Myanmar registered vessel its certificate are expired before 30th June 2020.

When a surveyor is not able to conduct scheduled surveys due to the restrictions of travelling or cancellation of scheduled dry docking, the DMA authorizes Recognized Organizations (ROs) for extension/ postponement the period between outside of ship's bottom surveys and extending the validity of certificates or issuing short term statutory certificates for up to three months. This is to be followed up by docking & outside of ship's bottom survey at the earliest opportunity.

The DMA temporarily permits extension/ postponement to annual ISM and ISPC internal audits for up to three months, in cases where it is not physically possible to attend and remote audit is not practicable.

For SMC and DOC periodical audits, the RO may issue a new SMC or DOC valid for three months or until the audit can take place, whichever comes first.

For SMC and DOC renewal audits, the DMA authorizes ROs to issue three months extension, where requested by the Ship owner/Operator, to existing SMC and DOC certificates.

For ISSC intermediate audits, the RO may issue a new SMC or ISSC valid for three months or until the audit can take place, whichever comes first.

With regards to ISSC renewal audits, the DMA authorizes ROs to issue three months extensions, where request by the Ship owner/Operator, to existing ISSC Certificates.

The DMA authorizes ROs to issue a short-term Maritime Labor Certificate for three months, in the cases

where the renewal or intermediate inspection is not practicable.

The RO shall state that the certificate has been issued to allow the ship to continue on its intended voyage and to complete the survey/inspection at the first port where surveyors/inspectors are available. When the renewal or intermediate inspection has been completed, a full-term Certificate may be issued with its expiry date not later than 5 years from the expiry date of its origin.

For extending the period between outside of the ship's bottom survey and the validity of certificates for more than three months due to the consequences of the pandemic, Ship owner/Operator needs to submit the evidence that the efforts which have been made to secure drydock space together with the recommendation of RO, the DMA will consider for further extensions to intermediate and renewal survey to be carried on dry-dock beyond three months. Before submission the application for further extension, the Ship owner/Operator shall apply to the RO for an extension and prepare the ship to allow a survey to the maximum extent possible while out of a dry-dock.

In all cases, the RO must maintain a record of ships receiving extensions to surveys or certificates and ensure the DMA is kept informed about the ongoing status. If the RO has a proposal other than above description, those will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the DMA.

The ROs are requested to take into account for the transitional arrangement to the HSSC of Myanmar registered vessel issued by the DMA with Marine Guidance (5/20 19) and (6/20 19) which should not be a hindrance for the implementation of this Guidance.

The temporary measures described in this Guidance will remain in place for three months from 31 March 2020 and further review and amendment shall be taken in place accordingly to the situational develops.

Circular Letter No.4246/Add.4 (3 circulars, refer the subjects)

1. This Marine Instruction is circulated by the Department of Marine Administration to allow the extension on the validity of Myanmar registered vessels ' certificates which shall be expired between 30th June 2020 and 30th September 2020 for a period of three months.

2. The Department of Marine Administration circulates this Marine Guidance as a revised version of the Marine Guidance (1/2020) to allow three months extension to the validity of the Myanmar Registered vessels' certificates those are expired before 30th September 2020.

3. This guidance provides the step-based approach (guiding principles) to the issuance of short-term certificates for further extension beyond three months in the circumstances where it is impossible to conduct survey, inspection or audit.

Circular Letter No.4246/Add.5

In case if the extension of SEA is unavoidable, the ship owner:

(a) shall consider the mitigation measures to avoid fatigue and to support their wellbeing, such as rearranging of work patterns to allow additional rest periods and shore leave where possible and providing increased connectivity enabling the seafarers to contact home and access entertainment onboard, in any case the maximum period of continuous service onboard shall not exceed 15 months;

(b) shall consult the seafarer and obtain his written consent for extension with the same terms and conditions;

(c) may either extend the validity of the existing SEA using an addendum or make a new SEA, for a maximum period of 3 (three) months for both; and

(d) Apply DMA for an approval of such extension by providing a copy of addendum or new SEA and written consent of seafarer.

Circular Letter No. 4246/Add.6 (3 Circulars on Extension of the validity of the certificates of Myanmar registered vessels trading international voyages during the COVID-19 Pandemic)

Marine Guidance (8/2020)- Extending the validity of the certificates of Myanmar registered vessels trading in international voyage due to the outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus;

Marine Guidance (9/2020)- Guiding principles for the further extension of the validity of certificate beyond its statutory maximum during the COVID-19 Pandemic;

Marine Instruction (5/2020)- Extending the validity of the certificates of Myanmar registered vessels trading in international voyages during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Circular Letter No.4246/Add.8 25 August 2021

Marine Instruction (8/2021) - Further Extension of validity of the STCW Certificates of Myanmar seafarers serving onboard during the COVID-19 pandemic

1. The Department of Marine Administration (DMA) is fully aware of that the COVID-19 pandemic has significant impacts on seafarers and the entire global shipping industry. Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the governments around the world have created significant hurdles to crew changes and repatriation of seafarers, as well as the current disruption still persists, and therefore, numbers of Myanmar seafarers are necessary to extend their certificates.
2. Impacts of COVID 19 pandemic have triggered the closure of Maritime Training Centers (MTCs), and therefore, the DMA has permitted the MTCs to conduct online courses for revalidation of CoCs and

CoPs in order to facilitate seafarers to join ships with valid certificates

3. The validity of STCW certificates of Myanmar seafarers who are currently serving ONBOARD and engaged on international voyages and near-costal voyages, that are expiring between the period of 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021 shall be extended to 31 March 2022 without need to submit application at the DMA.
4. Notwithstanding this extension, all Myanmar seafarers ASHORE are strongly encouraged to apply for revalidation of their CoCs and CoPs upon the completion of online courses or practical trainings for revalidation at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the stipulated requirements for revalidation of respective certificates.
5. This Marine Instruction comes into force on the date of issue, and Marine Instructions (2/2021) and (6/2021) are revoked.

Circular Letter No.4246/Add.10 9 December 2021

1. The Department of Marine Administration (DMA) is fully aware of that the COVID-19 pandemic has significant impacts on seafarers and the entire global shipping industry. Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the governments around the world have created significant hurdles to crew changes and repatriation of seafarers, as well as the current disruption still persists, and therefore, numbers of Myanmar seafarers are necessary to extend their certificates.
2. Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic have triggered the closure of Maritime Training Centers (MTCs), and therefore, the DMA has permitted the MTCs to conduct online courses for revalidation of CoCs and CoPs in order to facilitate seafarers to join ships with valid certificates.
3. The validity of STCW certificates of Myanmar seafarers who are currently serving ONBOARD and engaged on international voyages and near-coastal voyages, that are expiring between the period of 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022 shall be extended to 30 June 2022 without need to submit application at the DMA.
4. Notwithstanding this extension, all Myanmar seafarers ASHORE are strongly encouraged to apply for revalidation of their CoCs and CoPs upon the completion of online courses or practical trainings for

revalidation at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the stipulated requirements for revalidation of respective certificates.

5. This Marine Instruction comes into force on the date of issue

Circular Letter No.4246/Add.11 10 March 2022

1. The Department of Marine Administration (DMA) is fully aware of that the COVID-19 pandemic has significant impacts on seafarers and the entire global shipping industry. Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the governments around the world have created significant hurdles to crew changes and repatriation of seafarers, as well as the current disruption still persists, and therefore, numbers of Myanmar seafarers are necessary to extend their certificates.
2. Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic have triggered the closure of Maritime Training Centres (MTCs), and therefore, the DMA has permitted the MTCs to conduct online courses for revalidation of CoCs and CoPs in order to facilitate seafarers to join ships with valid certificates.
3. The validity of STCW certificates of Myanmar seafarers who are currently serving ONBOARD and engaged on international voyages and near-coastal voyages, that are expiring between the period of 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022 shall, be extended to 30 September 2022 without need to submit application at the DMA.
4. Notwithstanding this extension, all Myanmar seafarers ASHORE are strongly encouraged to apply for revalidation of their CoCs and CoPs upon the completion of online courses or practical trainings for revalidation at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the stipulated requirements for revalidation of respective certificates
5. The Marine Instruction comes into force on the date of issue.

Circular Letter No.4246/Add.12 10 June 2022

1. The Department of Marine Administration (DMA) is fully aware of that the COVID-19 pandemic has significant impacts on seafarers and the entire global shipping industry. Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the government around the world have created significant hurdles to crew changes and

		<p>repatriation of seafarers, as well as the current disruption still persists, and therefore, numbers of Myanmar seafarers are necessary to extend their certificates.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic have triggered the closure of Maritime Training Centres (MTCs), and therefore, the DMA has permitted the MTCs to conduct online courses for revalidation of CoCs and CoPs in order to facilitate seafarers to join ships with valid certificates. 3. The validity of STCW certificates of Myanmar seafarers who are currently serving ONBOARD and engaged on international voyages and near-coastal voyages, that are expiring between the period of 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022 shall be extended to 31 December 2022 without need to submit application at the DMA. 4. Notwithstanding this extension, all Myanmar seafarers ASHORE are strongly encouraged to apply for revalidation of their CoCs and CoPs upon the completion of online courses or practical trainings for revalidation at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the stipulated requirements for revalidation of respective certificates 5. The Marine Instruction comes into force on the date of issue
12.	Oman	<p>The extension validity of the following seafarer's documents issued by, or under the authority of, this Directorate General that terminated, or will be terminated in coming months, is hereby extended until the June 30th 2020.</p> <p>Certificate of Competency, Certificate of Proficiency, Seafarers Medical fitness certificate, Recognition Endoresment, Recognition document (for service in Domestic Voyage) and Seafarers Identification Document.</p>
13.	Sri Lanka	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Statutory certificates which will be expired before 30th April 2020 will be granted a general extension till 31st May 2020. Owners or operators of Sri Lankan ships are not required to apply for the extension. (2) Certificates of Competency (CoC), Certificates of Proficiency (CoP), Certificates of Recognition (CoR) and Sri Lankan Medical certificates which will be expired before 30th April 2020 will be granted a general extension till June 2020. Seafarers are not required to apply for the extension. (3) Seafarers' service period on board ships may be extended provided that such extension agreed by the

seafarer voluntary in writing and such extension should also be set out properly in the contract of employment. All extensions shall be communicated to this administration within two weeks of signing.

Revised - Circular Letter No.4237/Add.3

MSN 02/2020 dated 22 March 2020 has outlined the extraordinary measures adopted by the Merchant Shipping Secretariat (MSS) due to COVID-19 outbreak. In view of the recent developments and uncertainty that have been caused by the pandemic and having assessed the difficulties faced by the seafarers and ship-owners, the Merchant Shipping Secretariat has taken pragmatic approach which includes following further measures for the force majeure arising due to the COVID-19. MSN 02/2020 has been revised with effect from 01 May 2020.

1. Seafarers' Certification

Following measures are applicable to seafarers who are holders of certificates issued by Sri Lanka and who have joined ships prior 01 March 2020.

a. Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency which have expired or will be expiring after 01/05/2020 will remain valid until 01/10/2020.

b. Seaman's Book (CDC) issued by Sri Lanka which have expired or will be expiring after 01/05/2020 will remain valid until 01/10/2020.

c. Certificates of Recognition (Endorsements attesting the recognition of national certificates of competency) which have expired or will be expiring after 01/05/2020 will remain valid for a maximum period up to 01/10/2020, or an earlier date as provided by a similar extension issued by the Competent Authorities of the Country which issued the certificate of competency.

d. Medical certificates issued by the approved medical practitioners of Sri Lanka which have expired

or will be expiring after 01/05/2020 will be granted a general extension of 3 months from the date of expiry.

e. Contract of Employment of Seafarers may be extended by another 3 months provided that such extension agreed by the seafarer voluntary in writing and such extension should also be set out properly in the contract of employment. All extensions shall be communicated to this administration within two weeks of signing.

Seafarers are not required to apply for any extensions mentioned above.

Revised - Circular Letter No.4237/Add.4

The purpose of this MSN is to notify the interest parties on the amendments were made to the item No. 1 (Seafarers' Certification) of the *MSN 02/2020-Revised*, as below. Except the said item No.1, the other parts of the *MSN 02/2020-Revised* stand as it is.

Due to the uncertainty that has been caused by COVID-19, the Merchant Shipping Secretariat (MSS) hereby amend the validity period of the below mentioned Seafarers' Certificates which were issued by the MSS or on behalf of the MSS, as below.

Notwithstanding to this MSN, a seafarer who meet the eligibility requirements for revalidation of the respective certificates, is strongly encouraged to apply for revalidation.

Below amended extensions were granted by this MSN, may be reviewed as appropriately, to keep aligned with the future initiatives of the IMO with regard to the outbreak of the COVID-19.

1.0 Seafarers' Certification

Following amendments are applicable to the holders of the certificates which issued by the MSS or on behalf of the MSS; expiring between 13th March 2020 and 01st October 2020.

a. The validity period of the **Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency and associated endorsements** may be extended for the period of **Six Months** from the expiry date of the respective certificates.

b. The validity period of the **Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC)** may be extended for **Six Months** from its expiry date.

c. The validity period of the **Certificates of Recognition** which issued by the MSS in accordance with the STCW Reg. I/10, may be extended for period of **Six Months** from the expiry date of the respective certificates or until the validity period of a similar extension granted by the Competent Authority of the Country which issued their national certificate of competency.

d. The validity period of the **Medical certificates** issued by the approved medical practitioners of Sri Lanka, may be extended for the period of **Three Months** from its expiry date.

e. The validity period of the **Contract of Employment of Seafarers** may be extended by another **Three Months** provided that such an extension agreed by the seafarer voluntary in writing and such extension should also be set out properly in the contract of employment. All extensions shall be communicated to the MSS within two weeks of signing.

There is no need to approach the MSS for any confirmations of extensions granted above but may retain a copy of this MSN onboard for the guidance of officials should it be required.

Circular Letter No.4237/Add.14

certification of seafarers- Extra ordinary Measures Resulting COVID -19 pandemic

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has issued circular letter No. 4204/Add.5/Rev.1 dated on 2nd April 2020, to encourage STCW certificates issuing administrations to take pragmatic and practical approach regarding the extension of certificates including medical certificates, and other associated endorsements due to the COVID -19 outbreak. Accordingly, Merchant Shipping Secretariat (MSS) has taken following further steps to extend the validity of Certificates of seafarers. All seafarers are encouraged to revalidate their CDC/COC/COP (including certificates required under chapter V and VI of the STCW convention and cooks 'certificates issued under MLC) certificates well in advance in the view of ongoing COVID -19 pandemic.

I. Extension of the validity of Seafarers Certification.

- All CDCs, COCs, training certificates (i.e., certificates issued under chapter V and VI of the STCW convention), associated endorsements and cooks' certificates issued by MSS which have expired or are expiring between 01st May and 31st December 2020 will be extended till 30th September 2021.
- Certificates of Recognition (Endorsement attesting the recognition of national certificates of competency) which have expired or are expiring between 01st May and 31st December 2020 will remain valid for a maximum period up to 30th September 2021, or earlier date as provided by a similar extension issued by the competent Authority of the Country which issued the certificates of competency.
- There is no application required to be made for the aforementioned extension of certification.
- Notwithstanding the above, whenever the revalidation of their expired certificate is to be carried out,

the normal processes/fees will be applicable and new validity date will be for a period of five years from the original date of expiry of the certificates.

2. Medical certificates issued under MLC.

- All medical certificates which have expired or are expiring will be extended for the period of three (3) months from the date of expiry in accordance with STCW 78 as amended.
- Extension referred in sub paragraph i above, may be further extended for another three (3) months for seafarers who are unable to sign off due to various restrictions of port of calls, subject to following conditions.

a. Each request will be handled individually (case by case)

b. Duly completed form of application as prescribed in annexure-I to this notice shall be submitted to the MSS with a copy of the existing medical certificate.

Circular Letter No.4237/Add.15

1. Extension of the validity of seafarer's certification.

1.1. All CDCs, COCs, training certificates (i.e., certificates issued under chapter V and VI of the STCW convention), associated endorsements and cooks' certificates issued by the MSS, that are expiring between 01 May 2020 and 30 December 2021(both dates inclusive) will be extended till 31 December 2021. This applies to all above mentioned certificates of Seafarers who are both onboard or ashore.

1.2. Certificates of Recognition-COR (Endorsement attesting the recognition of national certificates of competency) and applications for issuing COR, that are expiring between 01 May 2020 and 30 December 2021(both dates inclusive) will remain valid for a maximum period up to 31 December 2021, or earlier date as provided by a similar extension issued by the competent authority of the country which issued the certificates of competency.

1.3. There is no application required to be made for the aforementioned extension of certificates.

2. Revalidation of Certificates

2.1. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 above, seafarers who were affected by the suspension and or unavailability of training and assessment programmes, their STCW certificates will be revalidated without any requirement of refresher training and, or practical assessment of competence, Online request will be accepted and accordingly, CDCTCOC/COP certificates will be endorsed for a period of one (1) year from the date of expiry of the certificate subject to the following:

2.1.1 Twelve Months of seagoing experience in total during the preceding five years.; or

2.1.2 Three Months of seagoing experience in total during the preceding six months immediately prior to revalidating.

2.2 The tanker COPs will be revalidated, even if expired, when the seafarer has completed approved seagoing service, performing the duties appropriate to the tanker certificate held, for a period of at least three (3) months in total during the preceding 5 years.

2.3 seafarers applying for revalidation of COPs and COCs shall meet fitness specified in section A-I/9 of the STCW code and shall certificate.

2.4 In order to verify the seafarers seagoing experience mentioned in sub paragraph 2.1 above, mandatory documents required for the process of revalidation are as follows;

2.4.1 Original COC/CDC/COP certificate(s) to be revalidated;

2.4.2 Copy of CDC pages showing sea service records;

2.4.3 Valid medical certificate issued by approved medical practitioner;

2.4.4 Copy of Passport which includes in/out immigration stamps pages; and

2.4.5 Deck or Engine watch keeping certificates.

2.4.6 Sea service testimonials.

2.5 Detailed internal process of revalidation of certificates will be notified through a circular.

3 Medical certificates issued under MLC.

This section is applicable to Sri Lankan seafarers who are sailing onboard vessels.

1. All medical certificates which have expired or are expiring will be extended for the period of three (3) months from the date of expiry in accordance with STCW 78 as amended.

2. Extension referred in sub paragraph i above, may be further extended for another three (3) months for seafarers who are unable to sign off due to various restrictions of port of calls, subject to following conditions.

a. Each request will be handled individually. (case by case)

b. Duly completed form of application as prescribed in annexure-I to this notice shall be submitted to the MSS with a copy of the existing medical certificate.

South
Africa

COVID-19 – Process for extension of Certificates
Marine Notice No. 19 of 2020 dated 30.03.2020

Marine Notice No. 23 of 2020 dated 21.04.2020

Validity and Revalidation of Certificates

Certificates of Competency (COC) and/or Certificates of Proficiency (COP) issued in accordance with the International Convention of the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW Convention or the Convention) are generally valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of issue.

SAMSA has considered the predicament many seafarers and their employers are finding themselves in and have granted an extension until 30 September 2020 to any certificate that may expire during the national lockdown and/or shortly thereafter.

Applications for such extension shall be made electronically, with documents that have exceeded their validity date, may be acceptable provided that the certificate was valid on/before 15 December 2019,

Employers who find themselves with seafarers onboard their ships whose certificates are due to expire whilst on an extended tour of duty, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, shall apply as per paragraph 12 below.

South African registered ships who have seafarers holding certificates that will be expiring soon and are being affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic shall follow the process in paragraph 12 below

South African registered ships who has seafarers holding foreign COC's shall take the direction regarding seafarers Certification from that Administration and communicate to the Principal Officer where the ship is registered regarding any challenges they may encounter regarding validity of the seafarer's certificates.

GUIDELINES FOR SEAFARERS AND VESSEL CERTIFICATION DURING COVID-19 PERIOD (Circular dated

29.04.2020)

Seafarer's certification The following arrangements have been made regarding Seafarer Certification and related documentation

Validity of Seafarer Certificates

SAMSA has considered the predicament many seafarers and their employers are finding themselves in and have granted an extension until 30 September 2020 to any certificate that may expire during the national lockdown and/or shortly thereafter. Masters, Seafarers and Employers must produce the appropriate Marine Notice to show extension of their Certificates - <http://www.samsa.org.za/Pages/Marine-Notices.aspx> Where appropriate, seafarers and/or employers may apply to be issued a specific letter to each seafarers in accordance with the Marine Notice

Medical and Eyesight Certificates

Medical Certificates for seafarers shall remain valid as issued. Under the measures in place to combat the COVID-19 disease, medical practitioners will still be operating and persons will be allowed to visit the doctors for any reason. Seafarers whose medical certificates expires whilst onboard a ship may continue to serve on that ship for 3 months from the expiration date in accordance with STCW Regulation I/9.

Safe Manning of Ships

Ship operators shall inform SAMSA regarding any challenges with seafarers holding foreign certificates of competency with regards to revalidation and obtaining an endorsement to their Certificate of Competency. SAMSA will not issue an endorsement to a foreign COC unless such certificate is still valid, except where there is a clear policy from that administration regarding the same. The issue of the endorsement applied for by employers is not affected by this Marine Notice.

Vessel Certificates and Surveys

Vessels which are subject to International Conventions whose statutory certification are due for renewal and there's difficulty with the attendance by a surveyor may apply for extension of certificates by up to three months. Such application shall be made in good time to ensure continued compliance with all statutory requirements.

GUIDELINES FOR SEAFARERS AND VESSEL CERTIFICATION DURING COVID-19 PERIOD (Circular dated 29.04.2020)

Validity of Seafarer Certificates

SAMSA has considered the predicament many seafarers and their employers are finding themselves in and have granted an extension until 30 September 2020 to any certificate that may expire during the national lockdown and/or shortly thereafter. Masters, Seafarers and Employers must produce the appropriate Marine Notice to show extension of their Certificates -<http://www.samsa.org.za/Pages/Marine-Notices.aspx> Where appropriate, seafarers and/or employers may apply to be issued a specific letter to each seafarers in accordance with the Marine Notice

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Medical Certificates for seafarers shall remain valid as issued. Under the measures in place to combat the COVID-19 disease, medical practitioners will still be operating and persons will be allowed to visit the doctors for any reason. Seafarers whose medical certificates expires whilst onboard a ship may continue to serve on that ship for 3 months from the expiration date in accordance with STCW Regulation I/9.

Safe Manning of Ships

Ship operators shall inform SAMSA regarding any challenges with seafarers holding foreign certificates of competency with regards to revalidation and obtaining an endorsement to their Certificate of Competency. SAMSA will not issue an endorsement to a foreign COC unless such certificate is still valid, except where there is a clear policy from that administration regarding the same. The issue of the endorsement applied for

		<p>by employers is not affected by this Marine Notice.</p> <p>Vessel Certificates and Surveys</p> <p>Vessels which are subject to International Conventions whose statutory certification are due for renewal and there's difficulty with the attendance by a surveyor may apply for extension of certificates by up to three months. Such application shall be made in good time to ensure continued compliance with all statutory requirements.</p>
15.	Sudan	<p>Sudan has introduced a number of practical measures to insure that the flow of commercial by sea is not to be unnecessary disturbed of this unrepresented time when ships and crew are a critical part of the solution to overcome the COVID-19.</p> <p>In this respect I would like to inform you that the Sudan maritime administration has adopted the temporary measures presented to ensure effective measure are taken to deal with global crisis.</p>
16.	Tanzania	<p>With respect to the coronavirus pandemic and measures introduced by the URT and around the world to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), we wish to inform IMO that the validity of all seafarers documents and certificates issued or endorsed by URT and held by seafarers currently serving on board the ships worldwide, pursuant to the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, expiring before 1st July 2020 are deemed to be extended for a period of not more than three (3) months from the date of their expiry.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certificates of competency and Certificates of proficiency which will expire before 1st July 2020 are accepted with general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) months after date of expiry; 2. Medical fitness certificates which will expire before 1st of July 2020 are accepted with a general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) months;

3. Continuous Discharge Certificates (CDC) which will expire before 1st of July 2020 are accepted with a general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) months;

4. Endorsements confirming or recognizing a certificate of competency, certificate of proficiency, certificate of an approved training course and certificate of GMDSS radio operator which will expire before 1st of July 2020 are accepted with a general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) months; and

6. The individual seafarers will not be required to submit an application for extension of validity of a particular certificate or document.

Circular Letter No.4288/Add.1 2 August 2021



MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE

MSN 2420 Amendment 1/2021

Guidance Relating to the Extension of Validity for Seafarers Documents and Certificates due to Coronavirus (COVID – 19) Pandemic

This notice is hereby issued to all ship owners, small craft owners, fishing vessel owners, Masters, officers and other related parties.

1.0 Introduction:

- 1.1 Noting the danger created by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Prime Minister ordered among other things the closure of all schools and higher learning institutions as preventive measure against the spread of the virus in the country. Hence, seafarers both onboard and ashore have no opportunity to attend refresher training leading to the revalidation of their certificates upon expiration.
- 1.2 In light of the coronavirus pandemic, on 17th March 2020 the International Maritime Organization (IMO) issued Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5 encouraging administrations to take pragmatic and practical approach with regard to the extension of validity documents and certificates in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.
- 1.3 In June 2021 the Government through the Ministry of Health, Community development, Gender, Gender, Elderly and Children warned of a third wave of COVID-19 and directed that all precautions to be taken for protection against infection.
- 1.4 Pursuant to Section 51 of the Written Laws, (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No.6) Act 2019, the Registrar shall take appropriate steps to advise and communicate to the seafaring community and the public of any developing or existing situation which may adversely affect maritime safety, security and prevention of marine pollution.

2.0 Guidance

- 2.1 Certificates of competency and Certificates of proficiency which will expire before 1st October 2021 will be accepted with general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) months after date of expiry:
- 2.2 Medical fitness certificates which will expire before 1st October 2021 will be accepted with general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) months;
- 2.3 Continuous Discharge Certificates (CDC) which will expiry before 1st October 2021 will be accepted with general extended validity for a period up to three (3) months;
- 2.4 Endorsements confirming or recognizing a certificate of competency, certificate of proficiency, certificate of an approved training course and certificate of GMDSS radio operator which will expire before 1st October 2021 will be accepted with a general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) and
- 2.5 Within the extended period the individual seafarers will not be required to apply for extensions of validity of a particular certificate or document.

3.0. This Notice may be amended again at any time taking into consideration any additional guidance and advise or instructions provided by the Ministry of Health, Community development, Gender, Gender Elderly and Children, IMO and other Organization. Any further request for information or clarifications should made through the contact provided below:

Indian MoU Press Release Highlight

The Guidance is prepared based on the general principle that requests/issues from the operators/owners/managers would be considered on a case – to – case basis by the relevant port State Authority.

In accordance with the guidance, the port State Authority should request the operator/owner/manager concerned to confirm that the flag State and/or the RO, relevant seafarer's organization (as appropriate) have been involved in the process. For consideration of the request by the port State Authority, operators/owners/ship managers concerned should provide a plan or process containing equivalent solutions to address the COVID-19 situation and letters of dispensation or exemption issued by the flag State or RO, under which the period of grace for delaying surveys, inspections or audits should be reflected, however, such period at this moment, **shall not be exceeding more than three months** from the date of expiry of the applicable certificates in accordance with the relevant regulations of the conventions.

Revised Guidelines:

In view of the foregoing and as the COVID-19 has taken an unprecedented pandemic situation, anticipating its long term effect, understanding from the present scenario that this critical situation is not going to improve substantially, in near future, also realizing that there is a vital need for maritime administrations to grant a reasonable period of exemption / extension / relaxation beyond three months for the STCW, MLC/ILO related certificates and other mandatory/statutory certificates of the vessels relevant to IMO conventions, the member Authorities of the Indian Ocean MOU have decided to revise the earlier guidelines issued vide Press Release dated 20th March 2020 with respect to relaxation period mentioned in various scenarios is now to be read as follows:

“This pragmatic relaxation / exemptions / dispensations granted by the flag state administration / R.O for an appropriate grace period beyond the relaxation periods permitted under various conventions for surveys, inspections and audits of ships and for certificates / documents of seafarers required as per MLC and STCW conventions specific to situations arising due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic should be accepted by the port State authorities. Any vessel beyond this grace period should be treated in the normal manner”.

The above revision to the annex guidance issued vide press release dated 20th March 2020 will be effective from 16 April 2020.

The guidance may be further reviewed upon any future initiatives taken by the IMO/ILO/member Authorities or based on the developments of the situation

Tokyo MoU Press Release Highlight

The guidance is prepared based on the general principle that requests/issues would be considered on a case-by-case basis by the relevant port State Authority. In accordance with the guidance, the port State Authority should request the operator concerned to confirm that flag State and/or RO, relevant seafarers organizations (if appropriate) have been involved in the process. For consideration of the request by the port State Authority, operators/companies concerned should provide a plan or process containing equivalent solutions to address the COVID-19 situation and letters of dispensation or exemption by the flag State or RO, under which the period of grace for delaying surveys, inspections or audits **should be no more than three months**, in accordance with the relevant regulations of conventions.

Revised Guidelines:

For dealing with the impact of the outbreak of COVID-19 in a pragmatic and harmonized approach in the region, Tokyo MOU adopted the relevant guidance on 12 March 2020 for port State Authorities to apply pragmatic relaxation on requests for extending periods of service onboard of seafarers, delaying periods for surveys, inspections and audits on a case-by-case basis. In accordance with the guidance, port State Authorities would accept the period of grace for delaying surveys, inspections or audits extended by flag State Administration and/or RO up to three months from the middle of January 2020 (starting of the outbreak of COVID-19). Taking into account that serious interruptions to the shipping industry become long-lasting as the consequence of the COVID-19 situation changed from epidemic into the world pandemic, Tokyo MOU reviewed and revised the relevant guidance in order to cope with the uncertain circumstances. Noting that no end sign of the situation can be expected at the moment, the guidance is revised to allow port State Authorities to apply the pragmatic relaxation for an appropriate grace period for delaying periods for surveys, inspections and audits specific to COVID-19 given to ship by the flag State Administration and/or RO. The revised guidance will be effective from 15 April 2020. The guidance may be further reviewed upon any future initiatives IMO/ILO or developments of the situation.

Paris MoU Press Release Highlight

The Paris MoU has developed temporary guidance for its Member Authorities during the COVID-19 crisis. The guidance recognises that there is a need to apply flexibility under these special circumstances. Forced by the current situation, Member Authorities have implemented national measures which are affecting the region's port State control regime.

The temporary guidance sets out parameters for the adoption of a pragmatic approach to be taken in the region. The key to this approach is the recognition that measures are being taken by flag States recognising the

challenges the maritime industry is facing. Guidance for the port State control Authorities has been drafted regarding:

- impact of delays for surveys, inspections and audits
- extensions of validity of the ship's certificates
- extended periods of service on board
- delaying periods for personnel certification (STCW'95 and MLC,2006)

As a general principle, a pragmatic approach regarding the mentioned issues is suggested to be taken on a case-by-case basis **for periods up to maximum three months**. In such cases it is expected that there is active involvement of the flag State, and, if appropriate, the Recognised Organisation. This would include evidence that the ship has a plan that covers how the ship will be brought back in compliance with the requirements.

Whether an inspection takes place remains the decision of the port State. A vessel can be considered self-isolating only if there are no ship-shore interfaces.