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Circular Letter No.4233/Add.2  
22 April 2021

To: All IMO Members  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from Ireland**

The Government of Ireland has sent the attached communication, dated 21 April 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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An Roinn Iompair  
Department of Transport

## Marine Notice No. 16 of 2020

*Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers,  
Yachtsmen and Seafarers*

**AMENDED 21 APRIL 2021**

### COVID – 19 Maritime Transport Supply Chain

It is recognised that maritime transport plays a crucial role in the supply chain, particularly to an island nation such as Ireland. This Marine Notice sets out the measures that have been taken to date to protect the maritime transport supply chain, guidance that has issued to supply chain workers and other COVID-19 related updates in the maritime sector.

Any specific queries in relation to COVID-19 and measures to mitigate its impact on the maritime transport sector should be sent to [MaritimeCovid@transport.gov.ie](mailto:MaritimeCovid@transport.gov.ie). All other general queries in relation to the maritime sector should be sent through the normal channels of communication.

[Marine Notice 06 of 2020](#) issued on 12 February 2020, last updated on 23 July 2020 and kept under constant revision, sets out procedures to be followed for submission of Maritime Declarations of Health and crew and passengers lists for all ships arriving in Irish Ports. In addition, the notice sets out procedures to be followed where there is a suspected case of COVID-19 on board.

[Marine Notice 14 of 2020](#) issued on 20 March 2020, last updated on 20 April 2021, sets out the temporary contingency measures for the extension of seafarer documents. A general extension of 6 months from the date of expiry, or until 31 October 2021, whichever date occurs earlier, has been provided for Irish-issued seafarer Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency, which expired on or after 21 May 2020. An extension of 3 months has been provided for medical certificates, which expired, or are due to expire, between 15 December 2020 and 31 October 2021, where a seafarer is unable to secure an appropriate medical examination by an approved doctor. Flexibility has also been provided to shipowners and seafarers to extend a seafarer's employment agreement by up to 6 months in agreement with both parties where the maximum period of service has been reached or repatriation is proving too difficult due to travel restrictions.

[Marine Notice 15 of 2020](#) issued on 23 March 2020, last updated on 12 January 2021, sets out temporary contingency measures in relation to surveying and certification of ships. Any necessary extensions to ship certificates for ships involved in international voyages where survey, verification and certification is not possible due to restrictions on personnel movements and travel will be considered on a case by case basis. This also applies to

intermediate/renewal surveys. Surveys for vessels involved in domestic voyages will be considered on a case by case basis as will surveys and certifications for new build ships under the Irish flag. The notice also sets out advice on the issuing of ships radio licences and servicing of life saving equipment.

Guidance on COVID-19 and the protection of supply chain workers is available on the Government's website here - [Guidance for Supply Chain Workers](#)

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has issued an information notice for ALL landings into Irish Fishery Harbour Centres which is available here - [Fishery Harbour Centres](#)

The EU Commission has also issued guidance on the implementation of "Green Lanes" and border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services which is available here - [EU Commission Guidance](#). This makes reference to travel restrictions, quarantine procedures and the recognition of professional certificates of competence for transport workers including seafarers, for facilitating travel.

The National Public Health Emergency Team, NPHET at their meeting on Tuesday 24th March 2020, agreed that cruise ships will not be permitted to enter any Irish port or anchor in Irish waters.

Guidance has issued from the Department highlighting that every element of the supply chain is a vital link in ensuring a continuous flow of essential goods during the COVID-19 pandemic. Where practical, all goods should continue to be distributed to the greatest extent possible. All supply chain workers are considered essential even if they are not dealing with essential goods. The Guidance is available here - [Importance of Maintaining All Links in the Supply Chain](#)

Details of travel restrictions on international travel and exemptions for maritime crew are outlined in [Marine Notice 16 of 2021](#)

To assist stakeholders and the public with issues that may arise, the Department has developed a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) guide on COVID-19 related issues in the Maritime Sector.

This Marine Notice will be updated as necessary to reflect any further measures put in place or guidance issued.

Note: Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

Irish Maritime Administration,  
Department of Transport,  
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

First issued: 27/03/2020  
Latest Amendment: 21/04/2021

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:

The Marine Survey Office, email: [MSO@transport.gov.ie](mailto:MSO@transport.gov.ie)

For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:

[MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie](mailto:MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie)

Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:

Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

email: [MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie](mailto:MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie) or visit us at: [www.gov.ie/transport](http://www.gov.ie/transport)