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Circular Letter No.4237
25 March 2020

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

Subject: **Communications from the Governments of:**
i **The Republic of the Philippines;**
ii **The Russian Federation; and**
iii **The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

The Embassies of the Republic of the Philippines, the Russian Federation and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka have sent the attached communications, dated 21 March, 24 March and 22 March 2020, respectively, with the request that they are circulated by the Organization.



21 March 2020

HIS EXCELLENCY KITACK LIM

Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

Subject: **Extension of validity of STCW certificates of Filipino seafarers currently onboard seagoing ships amid challenges caused by COVID-19**

Your **Excellency**:

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) of the Republic of the Philippines intends to convey the following information to member States of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Port State control authorities, and other parties concerned:

1. The MARINA takes cognizance of the serious impact of the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to the international shipping community and the whole world, prompting nations to take decisive actions to arrest the spread of the virus and mitigate its impact to human lives.
2. Such actions resulted in the imposition of travel bans, closure of ports and denied entry of ships as well as transit and transfer of seafarers for the purpose of disembarkation, repatriation, joining the ship and crew substitution. Corollary, Maritime Administrations like the MARINA are facing serious challenge in the facilitation and continuance of activities pertaining to seafarers' education and training, certification including medical certification, endorsement and revalidation of certificates in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention), 1978, as amended.
3. In view of the foregoing, and taking a pragmatic and practical approach in response to the aforesaid challenges confronting Maritime Administrations and the affected seafarers, ships and companies, the MARINA has decided to declare automatic extension of the validity of STCW certificates it had issued to Filipino seafarers, which are due for revalidation and have expired or about to expire during the period 13 March 2020 to 13 April 2020, for two (2) months from the date of expiry of the certificate concerned.

4. All ships and companies concerned are hereby advised to coordinate and make necessary arrangement with their respective Flag Administration for the extension of validity of the corresponding endorsement attesting recognition of the Filipino seafarers' STCW certificate or for the issuance of equivalent declaration of extension, as herein stated.
5. Companies should direct Master of their ships to advise Filipino seafarers onboard, holding STCW certificate mentioned in paragraph 3, to present the copy of this communication to Port State control authorities and all other ship inspectors/auditors as evidence of validity of their STCW certificates
6. Port State control authorities and all other ship inspectors/auditors should accept the copy of this communication disseminated by the IMO Secretary-General as evidence of extension of validity of the Filipino seafarers' STCW certificates mentioned in item number 3 above.

In this regard, this Maritime Administration respectfully requests His Excellency's kind assistance to bring the contents of this communication to the attention of all concerned, especially the IMO member States and Port State Control authorities.

Accept, Your Excellency, our assurance that the Republic of the Philippines through the MARINA is with you and the IMO in "our voyage together" in these unusual times.

With our highest esteem and warmest regards.

Very truly yours,



VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator
Maritime Industry Authority

MISSION OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME
ORGANIZATION
(UNITED NATIONS)



ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
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Ref. No. 003/094

24 March 2020

H.E. Mr. Kitack Lim
Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to convey to You the communication from the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation regarding the urgent measures taken due to the pandemic outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19.

I would be grateful for the circulation of the attached communication to all IMO Members, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status.

Enclosure: 4 pages

Sincerely yours,

Yury Melenas
Permanent Representative

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yury Melenas', written over a light blue circular stamp.



**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ТРАНСПОРТА
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23.03.2020 № 104-25-25/4825

На № _____ от _____

По списку рассылки

Об экстренных мерах, принятых в связи
с пандемией коронавирусной инфекции
COVID-19

Информационное письмо

В связи с объявлением Всемирной организацией здравоохранения (ВОЗ) пандемии коронавируса COVID-19, сложной эпидемиологической ситуацией в различных регионах мира, в целях защиты здоровья членов экипажей судов и работников морской отрасли, обеспечения бесперебойной работы судов под Государственным флагом Российской Федерации настоящим Морская администрация Российской Федерации (далее – Администрация) устанавливает следующие меры в случае, если срок действия судовых конвенционных документов, документов членов экипажей судов и трудовых договоров членов экипажей судов истек или истекает до 20 июня 2020 г.

Данные меры применяются исключительно для случаев **форс-мажора**, когда невозможно или затруднено проведение освидетельствований или проверок судна в порту, осуществление смены членов экипажа, ввиду нахождения судна в порту государства, где в связи с неблагоприятной эпидемиологической обстановкой, обусловленной COVID-19, имеются ограничения по сходу на берег, посадке на судно, перемещению по территории государства.

Квалификационные документы членов экипажей

В случае невозможности, в связи с ограничениями, обусловленными COVID-19, продлить в установленном порядке профессиональные дипломы, выданные Администрацией, а также подтверждения о признании дипломов, выданных иностранным государством, квалификационные свидетельства, подтверждения к дипломам для работы на танкерах (нефтяных, газовозах, химовозах), свидетельства о квалификации судовых поваров и иные квалификационные документы, требуемые в соответствии с Международной конвенцией о подготовке и дипломировании моряков и несении вахты 1978 года с поправками (ПДНВ), срок действия таких документов продлевается на срок до трех (3) месяцев.

Медицинские свидетельства

В случае, если срок действия медицинского свидетельства моряка истекает и отсутствует возможность в связи с ограничениями, обусловленными COVID-19, провести медицинское освидетельствование и возобновить действие свидетельства в порту захода судна, медицинские свидетельства продлеваются на срок до трех (3) месяцев с даты истечения, в соответствии с правилом 1.2 Конвенции о труде в морском судоходстве 2006 года с поправками (КТМС-2006).

Продолжительность работы на судах

В тех случаях, когда смена экипажа не может быть осуществлена в пределах установленной максимальной продолжительности работы членов экипажа судна в связи с ограничениями, обусловленными COVID-19, продолжительность работы, как это определено в трудовом договоре, может быть продлена на срок до трех (3) месяцев, при условии согласия члена экипажа и обеспечения права на оплачиваемый отпуск и на надлежащую репатриацию в соответствии с требованиями Правил 2.4 и 2.5 КТМС-2006.

Конвенционные судовые документы, периодические освидетельствования и проверки

В случае невозможности провести освидетельствование или проверку судна в связи с ограничениями, обусловленными COVID-19, судовладельцам судов под Государственным флагом Российской Федерации следует обращаться в признанные организации, которые уполномочены в каждом конкретном случае, без дополнительного согласования с Администрацией, продлевать срок действия конвенционных свидетельств, срок проведения плановых освидетельствований и проверок на срок до трех (3) месяцев.



Ю.А. Цветков

As per the distribution list

**Ministry of Transport
of the Russian Federation
Deputy Minister of Transport**

Date: 23.03.2020 Ref. ЮИ-Д5-25/4825

Urgent measures taken due
to the pandemic outbreak of
coronavirus COVID-19

Information letter

As the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as pandemic, due to the difficult epidemiologic situation in various regions of the world, in order to protect the health of seafarers and employees of the maritime sector, to ensure the uninterrupted operation of ships flying the State Flag of the Russian Federation, the Maritime Administration of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Administration) hereby imposes the following measures for cases if the validity of statutory certificates, certificates of seafarers and seafarers employment agreements has expired or is due to expire before 20 June 2020.

The present measures are to be applied only for cases of force-majeure, when it is impossible or difficult to carry out surveys or inspections of the ship in port, change the crew, due to the ship being called at port of a State where limitations to leave or embark the ship or travel in the territory of that State are in place due to unfavourable epidemiologic situation resulted from COVID-19.

Seafarers Certificates

In case if it is not possible, due to limitations related to COVID-19, to extend in due course the Certificates of Competence issued by the Administration as well as the endorsements in recognition of certificates issued by other Governments, Certificates of Proficiency, tanker endorsements (oil tankers, liquefied gas tankers, chemical tankers), certificates for ship's cooks or other documents issued in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW), the validity of such documents is extended for up to three (3) months.

Medical certificates

In case if the validity of medical certificate is due to expire, and there is no possibility to carry out medical examination and renew the certificate in the port of call due to limitations related to COVID-19, the validity of medical certificate is extended for up to three (3) months from the expiry date of the certificate, in conformity with the Regulation 1.2 of the Maritime Labour Convention as amended (MLC 2006).

Duration of employment on board

In case if ship's crew cannot be changed within the maximum determined duration of employment of seafarers on board, due to limitations related to COVID-19, the duration of employment as determined in the seafarer's employment agreement may be extended up to three (3) months, on the condition of seafarer's consent and provided that the seafarer's rights for leave and appropriate repatriation have been observed, as per the requirements of Regulation 2.4 and 2.5 of the MLC 2006.

Statutory ship certificates, periodic surveys and inspections

In case if it is not possible to carry out survey or inspection of a ship due to limitations related to COVID-19, shipowners of ships flying the State Flag of the Russian Federation should apply to the recognized organizations which are authorized, in each particular case, without additional approval by the Administration, to extend the validity of statutory certificates, terms of scheduled surveys and inspections, for to up to three (3) months.

Y.A. Tsvetkov



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துறைமுகங்கள் மற்றும் கப்பல்துறை மற்றும் தெற்கு அபிவிருத்தி அமைச்சு

(வணிகக் கப்பற்றுறைச் செயலகம்)

MINISTRY OF PORTS & SHIPPING AND SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT

(Merchant Shipping Secretariat)

මගේ අංකය

My No.

எனது இலக்கம்

ඔබේ අංකය

Your No.

உமது இலக்கம்

දිනය

Date

திகதி

22.03.2020

Mr. Kitack Lim

Secretary General

International Maritime Organisation

Dear Secretary General,

Re: General information on the practices adopted by the Government of Sri Lanka due to COVID-19 pandemic

In relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictive measures adopted worldwide and considering the challenges faced by the shipping industry, the Merchant Shipping Secretariat as the Maritime Administration of Sri Lanka has adopted attached measures which I hereby request to communicate with all member states of IMO.

I appreciate your valuable attention and efforts in advance.

Yours sincerely,

A.W. Seneviratne

Director General of Merchant Shipping

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1 වන மாடி, பிறிஸ்டல் கட்டிடம், 43-89, யோக் வீதி, கொழும்பு-01, இலங்கை.
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MSN 02/2020

22nd March 2020

Notice to: Port State Control Authorities

Sri Lankan Ship-Owners, Operators and Masters of Sri Lankan Flagged Ships

Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Service Providers

Recognized Organizations

Guidance relating to the ships' statutory certificates, certification of seafarers and contract of employment of Seafarers - Extraordinary measures resulting COVID-19 pandemic

1. Purpose

The actions taken by Governments worldwide as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak pose a serious challenge to the shipping industry. Such actions have directly affected;

- (1) all matters related to ships surveys, inspections, certifications and/or renewal of statutory certificates;
- (2) the continued training of seafarers, revalidate certificates, including medical certificates, and issuance of endorsements attesting recognition of certificates in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for seafarers (STCW Convention), 1978, as amended; and
- (3) service period of Sri Lankan seafarers.

In light of the foregoing, the Merchant Shipping Secretariat has taken following pragmatic and practical approach with regard to statutory certificates of Sri Lankan flagged ships issued by approved recognized organizations on behalf of this administration, and the Sri Lankan seafarers' certificates and contracts of employment which will be expired before 30th April 2020.

2. Adopted Measures

(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.

Issued on 22nd March 2020

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