



ISM/ISPS/MLC circular

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Recipients: Designated Person(s), Company Security Officer

No. : 2020-01 Date : 11 March 2020

Subject: Information of Flag Administration instruction for extension of statutory survey/audit, seafarers employment agreement and seafarers' Certificate of Competency due to the COVID-19

This circular is a reference document to provide information to other stakeholders such as ship owners or ship managers etc., and the actual implementation responsibility rests entirely with the implementing parties.

This circular is issued to provide information related 6 (six) Flag Administration instructions, due to the COVID-19, for the extension of statutory survey/audit, seafarers employment agreement and seafarers' Certificate of Competency. Shipowners and Operators who are or may be experiencing difficulties may refer to this circular and must read carefully the attached each Flag Administration instructions before application to the owned vessel(s)

1. BAHAMAS

Attachment : 1) Bahama Maritime Authority TECHNICAL ALERT 20-03

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
Extension of statutory survey/audit	Survey : RO Audit : Shipowner	Applicant shall make the application to the BMA on the owner's behalf with full supporting information
Extension of flag inspection	Shipowner or Operator	Applicant shall make the application directly to the BMA providing full supporting information via tech@bahamasmaritime.com
Crew members may have to exceed the 12 months or contractual period onboard as stated in their original Seafarers' Employment Agreement (SEA)	N/A	An entry shall be made in the ship's official logbook describing the situation and listing the crew members who have had to extend their stay. A new SEA stating that the

seafarers are entitled to repatriation at no cost to the seafarer at one week's, shall be arranged

2. BERMUDA

Attachment : 2) BERMUDA MERCHANT SHIPPING GUIDANCE NOTICE 2020-001

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
Extension of statutory survey/audit	Shipowner or Manager	Applicant should make the application to the BSMA via e-Mail survey@bermudashipping.bm
Extension of Seafarers' sea service beyond contract period	Shipowner or Manager	Documents to be submitted to BSMA as follows: ① Employment details of the affected seafarers ② Confirmation of consent by the affected seafarers
Extension of qualification revalidation deadline	Shipowner or Manager	Documents to be submitted to the BSMA as follows: ① Written request for extension ② Confirmation of continued validity from the issuing authority of the seafarer's COC.

3. HONG KONG

Attachment : 3) Extension of Crew Agreement Service Period for Seafarers Working On Board Hong Kong Registered Ships in response to the Outbreak of Novel Coronavirus

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
Extension of Seafarers' sea service beyond contract period	Shipowner or Manager or Master	An extension of a seafarer's service period can be exercised, provided that such extension is agreed by the seafarer voluntarily in writing.

		Such extension should also be set out properly in the crew agreement, and should be submitted to the HKMD within 28 days
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4. LIBERIA

Attachment : 4) LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY Marine Advisory 07-2020

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
<p>Extension of statutory survey/audit*</p> <p>* For the detail of specific cases, refer to the attached LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY Marine Advisory: 07-2020</p>	<p>Designated Person(s) or Shipowner or Operator</p>	<p>Applicant should contact the Fleet Port State Control Performance Department by email (prevention@liscr.com) with details of the difficulty encountered together with applicable supporting documents as follows;</p> <p>① A copy of the Port Authorities statement that the vessel is quarantined and/or that no one is authorized to attend the ship; or</p> <p>② A copy of a statement or letter from the Inspector, Auditor and/or Surveyor stating that they are unable to attend the ship in the port where the inspection, audit or survey was to take place due to travel restrictions and our port restrictions; or</p> <p>③ A copy of the statement or letter from the shipyard stating that they are unable to accommodate</p>

		the vessel on the date previously agreed.
Extension of flag inspection	Shipowner or Operator	Applicant is to contact the audit department at audit@liscr.com and provide documentation in support of the request to postpone, with the ship's schedule, so the inspection can be conducted when and where possible
Crew members may have to exceed the 11 months or Extension of Seafarers' sea service beyond contract period	MLC Shipowner	Applicant should submit the application via mlc@liscr.com with following supporting documents; ① Both the seafarer and shipowner agree for seafarer to forego annual leave ② A proper risk assessment is carried out by the shipowner taking into account the ship's trading pattern, rest hours, and fatigue and other identified hazards.

5. PANAMA

Attachment : 5) PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY MMN-02-2020

6) PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY MMN-03-2020

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
Extension of statutory survey/audit	ISM Company	Applicant should make the application to the PMA
Extension of Seafarers' sea service beyond contract period by the cases where it is not possible to change the crew due to COVID-19	MLC Shipowner	Applicant should make the application to any of SEGUMAR Offices (detailing the vessel name, and crew name and position on board)

and attached with the following requirements:

- ① a-Copy of Crew List of the vessel.
- ② b-Copy of the Seafarer Employment Agreement (SEA) of each seafarer requesting the extension.

6. SINGAPORE

Attachment : 7) MPA Shipping Circular No. 3 of 2020

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
Extension of statutory survey/audit and expiry of statutory certificates	Shipowner or Manager	Applicant should make the application to the MPA accompanied by recommendation from the RO via e-Mail (shipping@mpa.gov.sg)
Extension of Seafarers' sea service beyond contract period	Shipowner or Manager	Applicant should submit a request to MPA for extension of the sea service period. Documents to be submitted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Employment details of the affected seafarers ② Confirmation of consent by the affected seafarers
Extension of qualification revalidation deadline	Shipowner or Manager	Documents to be submitted to the MPA as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Written request for extension ② Confirmation of continued validity from the issuing authority of the seafarer's COC

Attachment

- 1) Bahama Maritime Authority TECHNICAL ALERT 20-03 – 1set
- 2) BERMUDA MERCHANT SHIPPING GUIDANCE NOTICE 2020-001 – 1set
- 3) Extension of Crew Agreement Service Period for Seafarers Working On Board
Hong Kong Registered Ships in response to the Outbreak of Novel Coronavirus -1set
- 4) LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY Marine Advisory 07-2020 – 1set
- 5) PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY MMN-02-2020 – set
- 6) PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY MMN-03-2020 – 1set
- 7) MPA Shipping Circular No. 3 of 2020 – 1 set (end)



**General Manager of Statutory
System Certification Team**

Novel Coronavirus

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Technical Alert is issued by the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) to provide information on COVID-19 (formerly called novel coronavirus or 2019-nCoV).

2. Introduction

- 2.1. As widely reported, COVID-19 has been associated with an outbreak of pneumonia type illness in Wuhan City, capital of Hubei Province, China and further cases are now being discovered worldwide.
- 2.2. Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases, such as, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). These viruses are zoonotic, meaning that they are transmitted between animals and people. A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain which has not been previously identified in humans.
- 2.3. Common signs of infection with this virus include:
- respiratory symptoms,
 - fever,
 - cough,
 - shortness of breath and
 - breathing difficulties.
- 2.4. In more severe cases, infection can cause:
- pneumonia,
 - severe acute respiratory syndrome,
 - kidney failure and
 - even death.
- 2.5. Standard recommendations to prevent the spread of this infection include:
- regular proper hand washing,
 - covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing,
 - thoroughly cooking meat and eggs and
 - avoiding close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.

- 2.6. The international medical community, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the regional Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) are concerned that this new virus can result in a pandemic (a worldwide occurrence of the virus) as occurred with SARS and H1N1 avian influenza. Should COVID-19 become more efficient at human-to-human transmission, the threat of a pandemic will increase dramatically. The global nature of travel and trade could increase the likelihood of the risk of rapid transmission around the world in a very short period of time.
- 2.7. This situation is evolving and, after the second meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee on 30 January, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.
- 2.8. There have been only five previously declared global public health emergencies: H1N1 (swine flu) in 2009, Polio in 2014, Zika in 2016 and Ebola in 2014 and 2016.
- 2.9. Based on currently available information, however, WHO does not recommend any restriction of travel or trade.
- 2.10. Owners/operators should ensure that standard recommendations to prevent the spread of infection are implemented on their ships.
- 2.11. Owners/operators should also ensure that they are aware of any local reporting requirements in their ships' areas of operation, in case of any crew members or passengers showing signs of infection.
- 2.12. Prior to entering Chinese ports or other ports identified as having been affected by the outbreak of COVID-19 owners/operators should make appropriate risk assessments and take appropriate measures.

3. Preparations in The Bahamas

- 3.1. Whilst there have been no reported cases of COVID-19 in The Bahamas to date, following the Level 3 travel advisory issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concerning the outbreak in China, along with travel restrictions in France, the United Kingdom, Australia, Jamaica and other sovereign nations, the Government of The Bahamas has implemented a travel ban, restricting all travel from China to The Bahamas.
- 3.2. As of 14 February 2020, **any non-resident regardless of nationality who has visited China in the last 20 days will be denied entry into the country.** All residents returning to The Bahamas will be strictly quarantined and monitored for development of symptoms for the duration of the incubation period with a maximum of 14 days.

4. Travel to China

- 4.1. The WHO's current recommendation is against non-essential travel for persons to China at this time.
- 4.2. The Ministry of Health, therefore, recommends that persons who MUST travel in that region, take precautions to protect themselves by avoiding direct contact with sick people and products that come from animals.
- 4.3. Be diligent, pay attention and equip yourself with travel advisory information related to COVID-19 before you travel.
- 4.4. If during, or after your travel, symptoms of respiratory illness are experienced, you are encouraged to immediately contact a medical provider who will guide you as to your next steps. Be ready to give your full travel history to health care providers. As mentioned, all persons returning to The Bahamas from China will be quarantined.

5. Actions to be taken in case of suspected cases

- 5.1. Where COVID-19 is suspected, medical advice should be sought.
- 5.2. The advice of public health authorities in the country where the ship is located when cases are suspected should be sought and any instructions followed.
- 5.3. Owners/operators are invited to report any suspected cases of COVID-19 to the BMA by email: casualty@bahamasmaritime.com.

5.4. Seafarer Employment

- 5.4.1. In cases where crew members may have to exceed the 12 months or contractual period onboard as stated in their original Seafarers' Employment Agreement (SEA) because of travel restrictions imposed due to the outbreak of the corona virus, The Bahamas will consider such extensions to be **force majeure** and therefore not a breach of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, (MLC) as amended.
- 5.4.2. In such cases, an entry shall be made in the ship's official logbook describing the situation and listing the crew members who have had to extend their stay.
- 5.4.3. A new SEA shall be arranged for the crewmembers in question, and it shall be stated that the seafarers are entitled to repatriation at no cost to the seafarer at one week's notice.

5.5. **Surveys, Audits and Inspections**

- 5.5.1. In cases where surveyors, auditors and/or inspectors are not able to undertake scheduled surveys, audits and inspections due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19, the BMA will consider applications for extension/postponement under *force majeure* or unforeseen exceptional circumstances, on a case-by-case basis.
- 5.5.2. For statutory surveys delegated to Bahamas Recognised Organisations, the Recognised Organisation shall make the application to the BMA on the owner's behalf with full supporting information.
- 5.5.3. For Bahamas flag inspections, the owner/operator shall make the application directly to the BMA (tech@bahamasmaritime.com), providing full supporting information.

6. **Further information**

- 6.1. Bahamas Ministry of Health:
i. [Home Page](#)
- 6.2. World Health Organization:
i. [Rolling Updates](#)
ii. [Information and Guidance on COVID-19](#)
- 6.3. International Maritime Organization:
i. [Circular Letter No.4204 \(31 January 2020\)](#)
ii. [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.1 \(19 February 2020\)](#)
iii. [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.2 \(21 February 2020\)](#)
- 6.4. Further information is also available from a number of industry bodies, governmental and inter-governmental agencies.

7. **Validity**

- 7.1. This Technical Alert is valid until further notice.



BERMUDA MERCHANT SHIPPING GUIDANCE NOTICE

Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Outbreak On Bermuda-Registered Ships

This Notice is intended for: Ship Owners, Managers, Masters, Operators, Officers and Crew, Recruitment and Placement agencies.

Summary:

This Notice is intended to assist in the management of the impact of Covid-19 in Bermuda Registered ships

This Notice was issued on 28 February 2020

1. Overview

(1) The Bermuda Shipping and Maritime Authority (BSMA) understands that in view of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, owners and managers of Bermuda registered ships are facing challenges in meeting various statutory requirements under the Maritime Labour Convention 2006, Merchant Shipping Act 2002 and the subsidiary legislation.

(2) These challenges may include the timely repatriation of seafarers aboard Bermuda registered ships at the end of the period in the seafarer's employment agreement (SEA), seafarers who are not able to obtain revalidation from training institutes for their expiring certification, expiring medical certificates, inability to obtain shipyard dry-docking services, inability to carry out mandatory periodical surveys, audits and inspections in time, etc.

(3) The BSMA will take a pragmatic approach to assist the industry in overcoming these challenges. The following paragraphs include a non-exhaustive list of scenarios and provide instructions for BSMA owners and managers who face such challenging issues due to the COVID-19 outbreak, to obtain favourable consideration and expedited approval.

2. Extension of Sea Service Beyond Contract Period

(1) Owners and managers unable to repatriate seafarers who have completed the employment duration as stipulated in the seafarers' SEA in accordance with Bermuda Merchant Shipping (Repatriation) Regulations 2013 may submit a request to BSMA for extension of the sea service period. Documents to be submitted to BSMA as follows:

- (a) Employment details of the affected seafarers
- (b) Confirmation of consent by the affected seafarers

(2) The extension of the contractual period of the seafarers should be reflected on the corresponding SEA of the affected seafarers.

3. Extension Extension Of Sea Service Period Beyond Qualification Revalidation Deadline

(1) Consideration will be given to allow seafarers who hold foreign issued Certificates of Competency (COC) to continue serving aboard Bermuda registered ships, if they are unable to revalidate their COC before the expiry date due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Documents to be submitted to the BSMA as follows:

- (a) Written request for extension
- (b) Confirmation of continued validity from the issuing authority of the seafarer's COC.

(2) BSMA will issue a flag administration confirmation letter for the seafarer to continue serving onboard Bermuda registered ships. No fees will be charged for this endorsement.

4. Extension Of Mandatory Surveys, Audits And Expiry Of Statutory Certificates

(1) Consideration will be given to the extension of mandatory statutory surveys, inspections or audits. Application for extension of surveys/inspections/audits or validity of statutory certificates may be submitted to BSMA.

- (a) We advise Bermuda registered ship owners and managers to submit such applications before the due date of the surveys/audits or expiry date of the statutory certificate in order to avoid Port State Control issues.

5. Service Extension Of Seafarers' Medical Certificates

(1) Consideration will be given to the extension of expiring medical certificates as required by Merchant Shipping (Medical Certification of Seafarers) Regulations 2013 in circumstances where seafarers need to extend their sea service beyond the contract period.

All application for dispensations as mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 5 may be submitted to survey@bermudashipping.bm and will be treated on an individual basis.

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7 February 2020

To : Shipowners / Ship Managers / Masters / Port Authorities concerned

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Extension of Crew Agreement Service Period for Seafarers
Working On Board Hong Kong Registered Ships in response to the
Outbreak of Novel Coronavirus**

Arising from the global outbreak of novel coronavirus, increasing number of port Authorities have adopted stringent border control to limit or bar the movement of persons with the objective of lowering the chance of the disease spreading in the community. We understand that such measures have resulted in shipowners having difficulty to arrange crew change for shipboard seafarers to be repatriated when their crew agreements expire. As a result, many seafarers employed to work on board Hong Kong registered ships may exceed the service period as entered in their crew agreements.

In view of the aforementioned circumstances, the Hong Kong Marine Department (HKMD) would like to draw the attention of shipowners / ship managers / masters that an extension of a seafarer's service period can be exercised pursuant to section 3A of the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Repatriation) Regulation (Cap. 478Q), provided that such extension is agreed by the seafarer voluntarily in writing. Such extension should also be set out properly in the crew agreement, and should be submitted to

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HKMD within 28 days after signing in accordance with the requirement as stipulated in section 6 of the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Crew Agreements, Lists of Crew and Discharge of Seafarers) Regulation (Cap. 478L).

Should there be any enquiry of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact HKMD at -

Email: mmo_mdd@mardep.gov.hk

Telephone: (852) 2852 3075

Fax: (852) 2545 4669

Yours faithfully,



(G.R. YE)

Mercantile Marine Office
for Director of Marine

cc: Hong Kong Shipowners Association
Hong Kong Seamen's Union
Merchant Navy Officers' Guild
Amalgamated Union of Seafarers, H.K.



THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
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24 February 2020

Marine Advisory: 07/2020

SUBJECT: Guidance to Assist with Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on Ship Operations

Dear Shipowners/Operators/Masters/Verifiers:

The purpose of this Marine Advisory is to provide guidance, in the form of Questions and Answers, to assist Shipowners, Operators, Masters and Recognized Organizations that may be experiencing difficulty in conducting operations, due to the COVID-19. These difficulties include restricted access to shipyards and ports for inspectors, auditors, surveyors and crews, which could result in delays in conducting statutory surveys, audits, inspections, crew changes, etc., to maintain validity of certificates and compliance with regulations.

Shipowners and Operators who are or may be experiencing difficulties should contact the Administration immediately for assistance when the Inspector, Auditor or Surveyor is unable to attend. The Designated Person Ashore or the Shipowner's/Operator's representative should contact the Fleet Port State Control Performance Department by email (prevention@liscr.com) with details of the difficulty encountered together with applicable supporting documents. Such documentation should include:

- 1 A copy of the Port Authorities statement that the vessel is quarantined and/or that no one is authorized to attend the ship; or
- 2 A copy of a statement or letter from the Inspector, Auditor and/or Surveyor stating that they are unable to attend the ship in the port where the inspection, audit or survey was to take place due to travel restrictions and our port restrictions; or
- 3 A copy of the statement or letter from the shipyard stating that they are unable to accommodate the vessel on the date previously agreed.

A. The Safety Management Certificate (SMC):

Question 1: Will the Administration extend the internal initial ISM audit beyond 3 months (see 14.4.3 of the ISM Code)?

Answer: The Administration will authorize an extension for up to one month. The company should provide evidence the audit was planned to take place within three months, and they are not able to complete the audit due to the port restrictions created in response to the COVID-19. If needed, the Administration may extend, or authorize the RO to extend the Interim SMC a full 6 months (1 year from the date of issuance of the Interim SMC).

Question 2: Can the internal annual ISM Audit be extended beyond the 15 months allowed by IMO Resolution MSC 273 (85) as authorized in ISM-001?

Answer: The internal annual ISM Audit cannot be extended beyond 15 months. However, the Administration can authorize additional time to complete the onboard internal audit, issuing a letter granting the authorization, provided the internal auditor (identified by the vessel operator) conducts a remote audit with the assistance of an officer currently serving on board. The Administration will accept the remote audit in lieu of the onboard audit for a specific period of time. For additional guidance regarding remote audits, contact the Fleet Port State Control Performance Department at prevention@liscr.com.

Question 3: Will the Administration extend the external initial ISM audit beyond the 6 months provided on the Interim SMC?

Answer: The requirement states the certificate is to be issued for a period of 6 months from the date of the interim audit, but 14.3 of the ISM Code authorizes an extension of the validity of an Interim SMC in special cases for a further period which should not exceed 6 months from the date of expiry of the initial interim certificate. If adequate justification with supporting documentation is provided, the Administration will extend the Interim SMC accordingly.

Question 4: Can the external intermediate audit required by the ISM Code be extended by the Administration?

Answer: The Administration cannot provide an extension of the intermediate audit as the ISM Code provides a one-year window to conduct the Intermediate ISM Audit. [See Question 22.](#)

Question 5: Will the Administration extend the date for the external renewal audit required by the ISM Code?

Answer: The requirement states the certificate is to be issued for a period of 5 years from the date of the initial audit. 13.14 of the ISM Code authorizes an extension of the validity of the SMC for a further period of three months if the vessel is not in a port where the audit can take place. If adequate justification with supporting documentation is provided, the Administration will issue an extended SMC, or authorize the RO to extend SMC.

Question 6: Will the Administration extend the date for the external renewal audit required by the ISM Code beyond the three months provided by 13.14 of the ISM Code?

Answer: The Administration will permit the vessel to operate with the existing SMC or issue a SMC with limited validity, if adequate justification with supporting documentation is provided.

B. The International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC):

Question 7: Will the Administration extend the internal initial ISPS audit beyond the requirements found in the ISPS Code?

Answer: 19.4.4 of the ISPS code states the internal audit must be planned to take place within 6 months. Provided the Administration can be shown the internal audit was planned to take place within 6 months, and the internal audit will be conducted in time to provide adequate documentation for the initial external audit, the Administration will authorize an extension up to one month before the initial audit is scheduled to take place. If requested an official letter may be provided.

Question 8: Can the internal annual ISPS Audit be extended beyond the 15 months allowed by IMO Resolution MSC 273 (85)?

Answer: The internal audit cannot be extended further. [See Question 22.](#)

Question 9: Can the Interim ISSC be extended?

Answer: The Interim ISSC cannot be extended. However, if the Administration receives adequate justification with supporting documentation, the Administration will issue or authorize the RSO to issue a Subsequent, Consecutive, Interim ISSC, when the Shipowner/ Operator provides documentation showing compliance with the 19.4.2.4 to 19.4.2.6 of the ISPS Code. Contact audit@lisccr.com for additional guidance.

Question 10: Can the external intermediate audit required by the ISPS Code be extended by the Administration?

Answer: The Administration cannot provide an extension of the Intermediate audit as the ISPS Code provides a one-year window to conduct the Intermediate ISPS Audit. [See Question 22.](#)

Question 11: Will the Administration extend the date for the external renewal audit required by the ISPS Code?

Answer: The requirement states the certificate is to be issued for a period of 5 years from the date of the initial audit, but 19.3.5 of the ISPS Code authorizes an extension of the validity of the ISSC for a further period of three months if the vessel is not in a port where the audit can take place. If adequate justification with supporting documentation is provided, the Administration will extend, or authorize the RSO to extend the ISSC accordingly.

Question 12: Will the Administration extend the date for the external renewal audit required by the ISPS Code beyond the three months provided by 19.3.5 of the ISPS Code?

Answer: The Administration will permit the vessel to operate with the existing ISSC or issue an ISSC with limited validity, if adequate justification with supporting documentation is provided.

C. The Maritime Labour Certificate (MLC):

Question 13: Can the Administration extend the external initial MLC 2006 inspection beyond the 6 months provided on the Interim MLC?

Answer: The Administration is unable to extend the interim MLC Certificate date as MLC does not provide for an extension. [See Question 22.](#)

Question 14: Can the external intermediate inspection required by MLC 2006 be extended by the Administration?

Answer: The Administration is unable to extend the intermediate MLC inspection date as MLC does not provide for an extension. [See Question 22.](#)

Question 15: Can the Administration extend the date for the renewal inspection required by MLC 2006?

Answer: The Administration is unable to extend the date of the renewal inspection required by MLC 2006. The requirement states the certificate is to be issued for a period of 5 years from the date of the MLC inspection for issuance of a full-term Certificate. [See Question 22.](#)

D. Other Statutory Surveys and Certificates:

Question 16: Will the Administration authorize the postponement of a vessels dry dock survey and Statutory Surveys including the IOPP renewal survey?

Answer: SOLAS Chapter I, Regulation 14(e) and MARPOL Annex I, Regulation 10.5 permits a Certificate to be extended by a maximum period of three (3) months if the ship is not in a port where the surveys are to be carried out. If it can be shown that a vessel was scheduled for the dry-docking survey and installation of a BWMS in a shipyard in due to the outbreak of the COVID-19, the shipyard is experiencing major delays on all projects, the Administration may extend the Dry-Dock Survey and related Statutory surveys including the IOPP renewal survey beyond the maximum three (3) months, if the vessel operator provides the Administration with the necessary documentation. Contact regsandstandards@lisr.com and the Recognized Organization for specific requirements.

E. Flag State Inspections:

Question 17: Will the Administration extend the flag State inspection for our vessel as it is currently calling on ports where the inspector or auditor cannot attend due to restrictions placed on vessels by port authorities due to the COVID-19?

Answer: If the flag inspector is unable to attend due to current restrictions imposed on the vessel due to the COVID-19, the Administration will extend the flag State inspection to the next port where the inspection can take place. The vessel operator is to contact the audit department at audit@lisr.com if the vessel is due for flag State inspection, and provide documentation in support of the request to postpone, with the ship's schedule, so the inspection can be conducted when and where possible.

Question 18: Will the Administration authorize the Permanent Certificate of Registry to be issued if the flag State inspection cannot be conducted before the expiration of the Provisional Certificate of Registry?

Answer: The Administration will not authorize the issuance of a Permanent Certificate of Registry, but if the inspection is scheduled as the next available port, the Administration will authorize an extension of the Provisional Certificate of Registry until the date of the scheduled inspection.

F. Seafarers:

Question 19: Will the Administration permit agreements by seafarers to continue being engaged under their seafarers' employment agreements beyond a period of 11 months due to restrictions placed on vessels by port authorities due to the COVID-19

Answer: The Administration will authorize seafarers to continue being engaged under their seafarers' employment agreement beyond 11 months. See paragraph 3.5.4 of Marine Notice MLC-003, issued by the Administration. This allows a seafarer to postpone his/her annual leave and continue to be engaged beyond the 11 months, provided:

1. Both the seafarer and shipowner agree for seafarer to forego annual leave, if the period of engagement on board will exceed 11 months;
2. A proper risk assessment is carried out by the shipowner taking into account the ship's trading pattern, rest hours, and fatigue and other identified hazards.

The Administration will issue a letter to the shipowner agreeing to seafarers to be engaged under their seafarers' employment agreements beyond a period of 11 months, taking into account arrangements made by the shipowner to repatriate seafarers as soon as possible at the next available port.

Contact: mlc@lisscr.com if this authorization is needed.

Question 20: Will the Administration authorize a seafarer to continue service on board a ship when their Certificate of Competency (COC) issued by their national Administration has expired, and they are not permitted by the Port Authorities to depart due to the COVID-19?

Answer: This Administration primarily issues endorsements of National COCs. In the scenario above, the Country issuing the seafarer's national COC should be contacted and asked to issue an extension of the national COC, so Liberia can issue an endorsement of the extension. If this cannot be accomplished, the Administration may, on a case by case basis, issue a short-term dispensation letter allowing the seafarer to continue to sail in their present capacity until the vessel reaches the first port where he/she can be replaced and repatriated. Documentation should be provided regarding the requirements of the Port Authorities and correspondence from the national Authority that issued the Seafarer's National COC denying the extension. Contact prevention@lisscr.com if the dispensation is needed.

Question 21: Will the Administration allow a vessel to sail without a Master, should the Master refuse to sail the vessel to a specific port or ports due to the COVID-19, and the ship manager cannot find a relief Master?

Answer: If the vessel is in a safe port, the Administration cannot allow a vessel to sail without a Master. See Article VII of the STCW convention.

Question 22: What if an extension of an audit or inspection cannot be granted?

Answer: The Administration may issue a letter authorizing the vessel to sail to the next available port where the audit, or inspection can take place. This authorization letter will be issued when requested if port restrictions issued in response to the COVID-19 create unexpected extenuating circumstances beyond the vessel operator's control. To receive the vessel specific authorization letter from the Administration, the Shipowner/Operator will need to provide adequate justification with supporting documentation.

Question 23: Has IMO provided guidance with regard to the COVID-19?

Answer: Yes, IMO has issued following circular letters:

[Circular Letter No.4204/Add.2](#)

[Circular Letter No.4204/Add.1](#)

[Circular Letter No.4203.Add.1](#)

[Circular Letter No.4204](#)

For latest IMO updates please follow this link:

<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Fleet Port State Control Performance Department at prevention@liscr.com.

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AUTORIDAD MARÍTIMA DE PANAMÁ
(PANAMÁ MARITIME AUTHORITY)
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MARINA MERCANTE
(GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MERCHANT MARINE)
DEPARTAMENTO DE CONTROL Y CUMPLIMIENTO
(DEPARTMENT OF CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE)

F-410
(DCCM)
V.00



Coronavirus Prevention Measures

No.: MMN-02/2020

February, 2020

The purpose of this Merchant Marine Notice is to provide all vessels owners/operators and local interested parties an update of the situation on the outbreak of the novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV.

Through the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Situation Report – 11 dated 31st, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO), has declared the outbreak to be a public health emergency of international concern.

It is still possible to interrupt the virus spread, with the proper implementation of measures to control this outbreak. That is why our Administration recommends to monitor the situation by continuously consulting advisors and situation reports issued by the WHO.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) based on the recommendations developed by the WHO, on the precautions to be taken to minimize the risk crews, seafarers, passengers and other persons onboard ships from the novel coronavirus, has issued circular letters providing information and guidance.

The latest IMO Circular Letter No. 4204, provides the WHO advices, reminding people of the basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infection and urge all interested parties (companies, ship managers, crewing agents, shipping agencies, etc.) to publish the information and ensure that crews, seafarers, passengers and others onboard ships are provided with accurate and relevant information on the coronavirus outbreak and on the measures to reduce the risk of exposure if they are likely to be engaged on ships trading to and from ports in coronavirus affected areas.

In view of the above mentioned, the Panama Maritime Authority recommends to implement the following measures on board ships:

1. Seafarers calling at China ports are advised to wear masks and take precautionary measures to avoid getting infected with a new coronavirus and prevent its potential spreading.
2. When entering China ports, seafarers are expected to remain onboard their ships and disembark their vessels only when it is absolutely necessary.

3. In case of any suspected case of coronavirus is found onboard, the ship it should reported to the local authorities and owners immediately and arranges to seek professional medical assistance from ashore for the affected crewmember /s as early as possible.
4. At the same time, proper prevention and separation measures should be taken to avoid contact with other crewmembers to reduce the possibility of any virus being spread.
5. Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing onboard or ashore.
6. Strictly enforce the ISPS requirements on ensuring that unauthorized personnel do not board the ship throughout the ships port calls.
7. Frequent hand washing.
8. Shipping agencies in Panama, must inform the Ministry of Health (MINSA) and Harbor Master (captaincy of ports) if any crew member or passenger is reported with any of the symptoms of the coronavirus and must coordinate with local health authorities.
9. In the event that the operating company has coordinated an inspection or audit in the affected ports of China and if it cannot be carried out by prevention measures, for that reason, it may request an authorization from this Administration to postpone it to the next port.

We recommend monitoring the situation by consulting webpages maintained by the WHO and other public health authorities and evaluate the risks present in the next port of call.

WHO-website: <https://www.who.int/ith/2020-27-01-outbreak-of-Pneumonia-caused-by-new-coronavirus/en/>

January, 2020.

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any other request should be directed to:

***Maritime Ship Security Department
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority***

***Phone: (507) 501 5037
(507) 501 5256***

E-mail: isps@amp.gob.pa

PanCanal Building
Albrook, Panama City
Republic of Panama
Tel: (507) 501-5355 mmc@amp.gob.pa



**AUTORIDAD MARÍTIMA DE PANAMÁ
(PANAMÁ MARITIME AUTHORITY)
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MARINA MERCANTE
(GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MERCHANT MARINE)
DEPARTAMENTO DE CONTROL Y CUMPLIMIENTO
(DEPARTMENT OF CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE)**

F-410
(DCCM)
V.00



**Merchant Marine Notice
Coronavirus and Seafarers employment agreement.**

No.: MMN-03/2020

February, 2020.

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Notice is to inform that with the outbreak of the Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), the WHO declared a state of global health emergency, causing massive uncertainty across the global trade, resulting in additional implication for the regular shipping operations.
2. The coronavirus outbreak coincided with the Chinese New Year holiday, and the Chinese government has taken the unusual step of extending the break for up to a week in order to reduce the spread of the contagion. Given the rapid spread of the virus it seems likely that the shutdown could be extended even further.
3. This policy is having an effect for crew changes. With extensive travel restrictions to and within China, moving personnel has become more difficult, and ports outside of China are carefully scrutinizing seafarers who have recently visited affected areas.
4. Is the purpose of this Marine Notice to inform that in those cases where it is not possible to change the crew due to this situation, this Administration consider appropriate to make an exemption to Standard A2.4.3, and Standard A2.5.1.2(b) of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, in order to extend the seafarers period of service on board, due to the WHO global health emergency which stated:

Standard A2.4 – Entitlement to leave

...

3. Any agreement to forgo the minimum annual leave with pay prescribed in this Standard, except in cases provided for by the competent authority, shall be prohibited.

Standard A2.5.1 - Repatriation

...

2. Each Member shall ensure that there are appropriate provisions in its laws and regulations or other measures or in collective bargaining agreements, prescribing:

...

- (b) the maximum duration of services periods on board following seafarer is entitled to repatriation – such periods to be less than 12 months; ...

5. In those case where the exemption is required, please be informed that by the end of the extension provided all the seafarers will have the right to have their annual leave with pay, and to be duly repatriated, as prescribed by the Standard A2.4.3, and Standard A2.5.1.2(b) of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, accordingly.
6. Finally, be informed that the exemption given through this Marine Notice will be reviewed within a period of one (1) month in which it will be decide whether the exemption granted is maintained or terminated.
7. Extension / exemptions will be granted through an Authorization Letter issued by SEGUMAR Offices, and must be request to any of our SEGUMAR Offices (detailing the vessel name, and crew name and position on board) and attached with the following requirements:
 - a-Copy of Crew List of the vessel.
 - b-Copy of the Seafarer Employment Agreement (SEA) of each seafarer requesting the extension.

February, 2020 – Coronavirus Prevention Measure.

***Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any other request should be directed to:
Maritime Labour Department
Directorate General of Seafares
Panama Maritime Authority***

Phone: (507) 501-5059

E-mail: labormar@amp.gob.pa



**MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 03 OF 2020**

MPA Shipping Division
460 Alexandra Road
#21-00, PSA Building
Singapore 119963
Fax: 6375-6231
<http://www.mpa.gov.sg>

26 February 2020

Applicable to: Ship owners, managers, operators, masters of Singapore registered ships, recognised organisations, agents and the general shipping community

IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) OUTBREAK ON SINGAPORE-REGISTERED SHIPS

1. MPA understands that in view of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, owners and managers of Singapore-registered ships (SRS) are facing challenges in meeting various statutory requirements under the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Act (the MLC Act), the Merchant Shipping Act and the subsidiary legislations.
2. These challenges may include the timely repatriation of seafarers onboard SRS at the end of the period in the seafarer's employment agreement (SEA), deployment of seafarers who are not able to obtain revalidation from training institutes for their expiring certifications, inability to obtain shipyard dry-docking services, inability to carry out mandatory periodical surveys, audits and inspections in time, etc.
3. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) empathises with the situation faced by the owners and managers of SRS and desires to take a pragmatic approach to assist the industry in overcoming these challenges. The following paragraphs include a non-exhaustive list of scenarios and provide instructions for SRS owners and managers who face such challenging issues due to the COVID-19 outbreak, to obtain MPA's favourable consideration and expedited approval.

EXTENSION OF SEA SERVICE BEYOND CONTRACT PERIOD

4. SRS owners and managers unable to repatriate seafarers who have completed the employment duration as stipulated in the seafarers' SEA in accordance with Section 23 of the MLC Act may submit a request to MPA for extension of the sea service period. Documents to be submitted as follows:

A) Employment details of the affected seafarers

B) Confirmation of consent by the affected seafarers

5. The extension of contractual period of the seafarers should be reflected on the corresponding SEA of the affected seafarers. Ship owners and managers should also ensure that the notification of crew list to MPA, in accordance with Section 15 of the MLC Act, is carried out.

EXTENSION OF SEA SERVICE PERIOD BEYOND QUALIFICATION REVALIDATION DEADLINE

6. Consideration will be given to allow seafarers who hold foreign issued Certificates of Competencies (COC) to continue serving onboard SRS, if they are unable to revalidate their COC before the expiry date due to the COVID-19 outbreak. SRS owners and managers may submit such request in-writing to MPA, accompanied with a confirmation of continued validity from the issuing authority of the seafarer's COC.

7. MPA will issue a flag administration confirmation letter for the seafarer to continue serving onboard SRS. No fees will be charged for this endorsement.

8. For Singapore COC holders, MPA will issue a letter to extend validity of the COC of the holders who may not be able to disembark due to the captioned grounds, similarly without fees.

EXTENSION OF MANDATORY SURVEYS, AUDITS AND EXPIRY OF STATUTORY CERTIFICATES

9. Consideration will also be given to the extension of mandatory statutory surveys, inspections or audits. Application for extension of surveys/inspections/audits or validity of statutory certificates may be submitted to MPA, accompanied by recommendation from the recognised organisation (RO) that issued the relevant certificate on behalf of MPA.

10. We advise SRS owners and managers to submit such application before the due date of the surveys/audits or expiry date of the statutory certificate in order to avoid Port State Control issues.

11. **All application for dispensations as mentioned in paragraphs 4, 6 and 9 may be submitted to MPA at email: shipping@mpa.gov.sg**

12. Notwithstanding the above email contact, SRS owners and managers may contact our Duty Officers during after-office-hours for urgent matters at our 24/7 hotline, +65 62255777.

GOH CHUNG HUN
DIRECTOR OF MARINE
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE