



ISM/ISPS/MLC circular

36 Myeongji ocean city 9-ro,
Gangseo-gu, Busan, 46762
Republic of Korea

Phone : +82-70-8799-8344
Fax : +82-70-8799-8319
E-mail: kimgh@krs.co.kr
Person in charge : KIM Geunhyeo

Recipients: Designated Person(s), Company Security Officer

No. : 2020-03 Date : 25 March 2020

Subject: Additional 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.

In addition to the KR ISM/ISPS/MLC Circular (2020-01), this circular is issued to provide information related 8 (eight) 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 Managers 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) and/or Company

1. COOK ISLANDS

Attachment : 1) Maritime Cook Islands Circular 227_2020

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
Extension of statutory survey/audit	Shipowner or Manager	Applicant shall make and submit the application (form is attached this circular) with supporting evidence not earlier than 30 days before the survey window closing

2. DENMARK

Attachment : 2) DENMARK COVID-19 - DMA Instructions RO-RSO

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
Extension of statutory survey/audit	RO/RSO	Should need arise to postpone surveys, inspections and audits

		<p>and extend certificates, the RO/RSO can act on behalf of the DMA in accordance with Convention and Danish RO Agreement.</p> <p>That need may arise for further postponement and extension, i.e. beyond limits specified in the Conventions, the RO/RSO must forward to the DMA a written application.</p>
--	--	--

3. Isle of Man

Attachment : 3) Isle of Man Technical Advisory Notice 002-20

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
Extension of statutory survey/audit	RO	The RO concerned shall submit to the Ship Registry an application. Then, the issuance of short term certification will be authorised by Isle of Man on a case-by-case basis.
Extension of Internal ISM Audits	ISM Company	<p>Extension of internal ISM audit is allows up to 15 months in accordance with ISM Code 12.1.</p> <p>If a Company is unable to undertake internal ISM audits within 15 months, Company is to contact the Ship Registry.</p>
Extension of Seafarers' sea service beyond contract period	N/a	<p>Provided the following criteria are met, this course of action is acceptable and there is no requirement to contact the Ship Registry:</p> <p>① The extension of the SEA is mutually agreed by the seafarer and shipowner;</p>

		<p>② It is documented by way of a new SEA or addendum to the current SEA, signed by both parties; and</p> <p>③ The service period does not exceed 12 months (or any alternative limit prescribed by an applicable CBA)</p>
	Shipowner or Manager	If this service period will exceed 12 months (or any alternative limit prescribed by an applicable CBA), then the Applicant should contact Ship Registry
Extension of Certification of Competency : CoC) revalidation deadline	Seafarers	Seafarers are advised to contact their CoC issuing Authority requesting an extension to their existing CoC. The Ship Registry will issue a Flag State Endorsement to CoCs that have been extended by their CoC issuing Authority with the new expiry date as stated on the CoC.
Expiration of Medical certificate validation	N/A	If a medical certificate expires whilst the seafarer is at sea, the certificate is allowed to remain in force up to 3 months until the next port of call where the seafarer can obtain a medical certificate
	Shipowner or Manager	If a seafarer is urgently required to join a ship with an expired medical certificate, the Ship Registry must be contacted to request permission

Issues that affect the ship's Minimum Safe Manning Document (MSMD)	Shipowner or Manager	If a seafarer is unable to join a ship or has to leave a ship because of COVID-19 and this affects the ship's MSMD, the Ship Registry must be contacted to request permission to sail
--	----------------------	---

4. MALTA

Attachment : 4) MALTA Merchant Shipping Notice 158

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
Extension of statutory certificates, surveys, audits and inspections	RO	RO shall make an application to this Directorate on the owner's behalf, including all supporting information and submit to following e-Mail tech.tm@transport.gov.mt
Extension of sea service beyond the seafarer employment agreement period	Shipowner or Manager	Applicant who require such an extension are to submit details of the seafarer/s including the details of the current agreement periods to our dedicated email address mlc.tm@transport.gov.mt
Extension of the validity of seafarer certificates beyond their expiry date	Shipowner or Manager	Applicant should submit the request which is including the details of the seafarer, the endorsement number and a copy of a valid (or extension of validity) Certificate of Competency by the issuing Administration of the CoC via applica.stcw@transport.gov.mt

5. Marshall Islands

Attachment : 5) MARSHALL ISLANDS MSA-2020-09

6) MARSHALL ISLANDS MSA-2020-11

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
Extension of internal ISM audit	N/A	Extension of internal ISM audit is allows up to 15 months in accordance with ISM Code 12.1. For audits to be carried out during the extension period, the Administrator will accept a remote audit in lieu of a physical audit if it meets the requirements of the ISM Code
Extension of interim SMC	Shipowner or Manager	The Administrator will authorize an extension of the Interim SMC in accordance with ISM Code 14.3
Extension of intermediate SMC audit due	Shipowner or Manager	The Administrator will authorize the issuance of a short-term SMC that is valid for a period of no longer than three months. Supporting documentation from the RO must show that the Company's original request for the verification was made prior to the SMC's third anniversary date
Extension of renewal SMC audit due	Shipowner or Manager	The Administrator will authorize an extension of the SMC for no longer than three months in accordance with ISM Code 13.14
Extension of internal ISPS audit	N/A	Same procedure for the 'Extension of internal ISM audit' will be applied

Extension of interim ISSC	Shipowner or Manager	The Administrator will authorize a consecutive Interim ISSC in accordance with ISPS Code A-19.4.5
Extension of intermediate ISPS audit due	Shipowner or Manager	The Administrator will authorize the issuance of a short-term ISSC that is valid for a period of no longer than three months. Supporting documentation from the RO must show that the Company's original request for the verification was made prior to the ISSC's third anniversary date
Extension of renewal ISPS audit due	Shipowner or Manager	The Administrator will authorize an extension of the ISSC for no longer than three months in accordance with ISPS Code A/19.3.5
Extension of MLC Initial, Intermediate and Renewal inspection due	Shipowner or Manager	If there is adequate justification and supporting documentation that an inspector is unable to attend, a short-term certificate may be issued
Extension of Seafarers' sea service beyond contract period	Shipowner or Manager	The Administrator is handling these COVID-19 contract and repatriation issues on a case-by-case basis

6. PANAMA

Attachment : 7) PANAMA MMN-03-2020 - COVID-19 March 2020

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
Extension of Seafarers' sea service beyond contract period	Shipowner or Manager	Applicant should submit a request to SEGUMAR Office with following documents;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Email requesting the extension of the Certificate, including the particulars of the vessel, crew name and position on board ② Copy of the Seafarer Employment Agreement (SEA) of each seafarer requesting the extension ③ Crew List ④ Copy of the Registry certificate
Extension of Seafarers Certificates including Certificates of Endorsement	Shipowner or Manager	<p>Applicant should submit a request to SEGUMAR Office with following documents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Email requesting the extension of the Certificate, including the particulars of the vessel, crew name and position on board ② Confirmation of continued validity from the issuing authority of the seafarer's CoC ③ Crew List ④ Copy of the Registry certificate

7. ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Attachment : 8) ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES_GEN 025 COVID-19_rev.1

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
Extension of statutory survey	Shipowner or Manager	<p>The Applicant should use application form as per GEN 001 circular.</p> <p>The application form should be stamped, signed and commented by RO</p>

Extension of SMC and ISPS renewal audit due	ISM Company	The Applicant should use application form as per GEN 001 circular. The application form should be stamped, signed and commented by RO
Extension of MLC renewal inspection due	MLC Shipowner	Administration may authorise its Recognised Organisations to administratively issue a ML Certificate for three (3) months where the renewal inspection cannot be conducted
Seafarers may have to exceed the twelve (12) months or contractual period onboard as stated in their original Seafarers' Employment Agreement	MLC Shipowner	A new SEA shall be signed by both parties with the clause that the seafarer is entitled to repatriation at no cost to the seafarer at seven (7) days notice.
Extension of the validity of STCW endorsements attesting the recognition of certificate of competency or certificate of proficiency	Shipowner or Manager	Applications should be submitted to the Administration including Certificate of Competency or Certificate of Proficiency with a new expiry date by the issuing Administration

8. VANUATU

Attachment : 9) VANUATU COVID-19 ISM internal audits and ISMISPSMLC renewal audits

Case	Applicant	Applied instruction
Extension of Internal ISM Audits	N/A	Masters may audit the Engine Department, and Chief Engineer may audit the Bridge Department, if possible under remote supervision from qualified internal auditor/DPA from company

Extension of ISM/ISPS audit and MLC Inspection	Shipowner or Manager	Recognized Organizations are authorized to postpone any ISM/ISPS/MLC audit due by 15 April 2020 for a period of not more than 30 days from the due date without prior authorization provided that the Administration is informed about the extension
--	----------------------	--

Attachment

- 1) Maritime Cook Islands Circular 227_2020 – 1set
- 2) DENMARK COVID-19 - DMA Instructions RO-RSO – 1set
- 3) Isle of Man Technical Advisory Notice 002-20 -1set
- 4) MALTA Merchant Shipping Notice 158 – 1set
- 5) MARSHALL ISLANDS MSA-2020-09 – set
- 6) MARSHALL ISLANDS MSA-2020-11 – 1set
- 7) PANAMA MMN-03-2020 - COVID-19 March 2020 – 1 set
- 8) ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES_GEN 025 COVID-19_rev.1 – 1set
- 9) VANUATU COVID-19 ISM internal audits and ISMISPSMLC renewal audits – 1set (end)



**General Manager of Statutory
System Certification Team**

Circular 227/2020

To: Owners, Managers, Fleet Managers, Deputy Registrars, Recognized Organizations.

Subject: COVID-19 – Extension of mandatory surveys, audits, inspections and validity of statutory certificates.

Date: 19th March 2020

Summary

Maritime Cook Islands (MCI) understands that, following the outbreak of COVID-19, an increasing number of countries are implementing travel restrictions and access limitations that are likely to cause delays for -

- Flag States and Recognised Organizations (ROs), in reaching vessels and completing statutory work within the required timeframe; and
- vessels needing to complete docking and servicing of critical equipment according to the requirements of applicable instruments.

MCI will be applying the concept of “force majeure” where statutory work, docking or servicing cannot be carried out in circumstances arising due to COVID-19; in such circumstances MCI may permit extensions, relaxing the standards of the regulations referenced in paragraphs 5.2, 5.3, 5.6, 5.9 and 5.10 of Assembly Resolution 1120(30), as well as any other applicable standards that MCI may deem appropriate.

Owners and managers that are experiencing problems in arranging statutory visits, docking or mandatory servicing of critical equipment may submit an extension request to MCI.

Vessels holding statutory certificates issued by MCI must submit a request in writing to their flag representative (Deputy Registrar and/or Fleet Manager) **not earlier than 30 days before the survey window closing or docking/servicing deadline.**

The written request shall include supporting objective evidence that would justify the application of force majeure; MCI will assess requests on a case by case basis.

Vessels holding statutory certificates issued by an RO on behalf of the Cook Islands must contact the RO to make necessary arrangements for extensions. ROs are required to inform MCI, requesting concurrence on possible extension recommendations.

MCI would like to highlight that vessels’ Owners and Managers will continue to be responsible to maintain safety, environmental and labour standards, according to the applicable instruments, for the entire period of the extension, and are required to report immediately to MCI any technical failure, deficiency or non-conformity arising during the extension period.

MCI will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and take necessary steps to ensure suitable response to the situation, flagged vessels, crew, managers, and owners.

Maritime Cook Islands might amend or cancel this circular at any time taking into consideration any change or advise provided by Authorities in respect to COVID-19 outbreak.



COOK ISLANDS EXTENSION REQUEST FORM

Ship
Registration
FORM 55A
v.1

Important Notes:

- This application form is to be completed in all respects by the relevant classification society / owner / manager and / or Master and submitted to MCI for review and approval.
- Each application must be supported by the appropriate documentation and justification in respect to the extension being applied for.
- Extensions can only be issued in accordance to MCI Circular 227/2020.

SHIP'S MAIN DATA

- NAME OF SHIP:
- IMO NUMBER:
- PORT OF REGISTRY:
- OFFICIAL NUMBER:
- LL LENGTH:
- GROSS TONNAGE:
- CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY:

GIVE DETAILS OF EXTENSION BEING APPLIED FOR, INCLUDING LIST OF STATUTORY CERTIFICATES WITH THEIR EXPIRY DATES AND / OR DUE DATES:

<i>CERTIFICATE</i>	<i>EXPIRY DATE / DUE DATE</i>

GIVE DETAILS OF EXTENSION BEING APPLIED FOR, INCLUDING LIST OF EQUIPMENTS (LIFERAFTS, LIFEBOATS, FIXED FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM, PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND OTHERS) WITH THEIR EXPIRY DATES AND / OR DUE DATES:

<i>EQUIPMENT</i>	<i>EXPIRY DATE / DUE DATE</i>

DETAILS OF ENTITY APPLYING FOR EXTENSION (OWNERS / MANAGERS / MASTER / CLASS):

GIVE DETAILS WITH JUSTIFICATION FOR THE GRANTING OF THE EXTENSION:

_____ at _____
(Date of request dd/mm/yyyy) *(Place of request)*

_____ _____
(Name of entity applying for extension) *(Signature)*

20 March 2020

Our reference:

Case 2020009936

Sikre skibe

/MBJ/TOL

COVID-19 - Instructions for Recognised Organisations acting on behalf of the Danish Maritime Authority

With the current developing situation concerning COVID-19, travel restrictions and other precautions may cause difficulties in carrying out statutory inspections, surveys, audits and certifications. As continuous operation of maritime transport is of utmost importance to ensure and maintain international lines of supply, the Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) kindly urges RO's and RSO's acting on behalf of the DMA to contribute in this regard as per below instructions:

RO's and RSO's should take all reasonable steps as possible to undertake statutory tasks in order to ensure timely services concerning statutory certification. Should need arise to postpone surveys, inspections and audits and extend certificates, the RO/RSO can act on behalf of the DMA in accordance with Convention requirements and ways of work specified in the Danish RO Agreement.

Recognizing however, that need may arise for further postponement and extension, i.e. beyond limits specified in the Conventions, the DMA will generally look positively upon such requests considering situations of force majeure. In any such case the RO/RSO must forward to the DMA a written application justified by a motivated proposal for period of extension. The application must include a plan describing how the ship will be brought back into regular survey or audit cycle once the force majeure situation is over.

Reference is made to information available at the DMA webpage, [DMA Contact - COVID-19](#). For any further clarification, please refer to the DMA RO Relations Team, RO@dma.dk.

Yours sincerely



Torsten Olsen
Chief Ship Surveyor

DANISH MARITIME AUTHORITY

Fjordvænget 30

DK-4220 Korsør

Denmark

Tel. +45 72196000

Fax +45 72196001

CVR-no. 29 83 16 10

EAN-no. 5798000023000

dma@dma.dk

www.dma.dk

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Isle of Man Ship Registry Technical Advisory Notice

COVID-19 Advice to Ship Operators

Ref. 002-20
Issued 13 Mar 2020

1. Introduction

The Isle of Man Ship Registry wishes to provide updated guidance on disruption caused by COVID-19. The ongoing situation will continue to be monitored and the advice will be updated as required.

2. General Guidance

Information on COVID-19 relevant to the maritime industry can be found on the following websites:

- [International Maritime Organisation](#)
- [International Maritime Health Association](#)
- [World Health Organisation](#)
- [International Chamber of Shipping](#)

Specific guidance for ship operators for the protection of the health of seafarers is available in IMO Circular Letter No.4204(Add.4). Please note this circular letter is being regularly updated, the latest version is available on the [International Maritime Organisation's website](#).

3. Seafarer's Certification and Minimum Safe Manning

3.1 Seafarer's Certification

If the following documents are expiring or have expired and are unable to be renewed as a result of issues relating to COVID-19, the following course of action should be taken:

- STCW Certificate of Competency (CoC)
Seafarers are advised to contact their CoC issuing Authority requesting an extension to their existing CoC.
- Isle of Man (Flag State) Endorsement
The Ship Registry will issue a Flag State Endorsement to CoCs that have been extended by their CoC issuing Authority with the new expiry date as stated on the CoC. The application for the Endorsement should be submitted using the normal procedure stated in [MSN 051](#). The Ship Registry will waive the fee for the Endorsement if evidence is included with the application that the extension is as a result of issues related to COVID-19.
- 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 3 months. If a seafarer is urgently required to join a ship with an expired medical certificate, the Ship Registry must be contacted to request permission. The procedure for this is stated in [MLN 1.2](#).



3.2 Issues that affect the ship's Minimum Safe Manning Document (MSMD)

If a seafarer is unable to join a ship or has to leave a ship because of COVID-19 and this affects the ship's MSMD, the Ship Registry must be contacted to request permission to sail with fewer seafarers than stated in the MSMD. The Ship Registry will make an assessment of the vessel's manning levels and permission may be given for the ship to sail with a temporary dispensation from the minimum manning levels.

4. MLC Implications

4.1 Financial Security

Under the Maritime Labour Convention 2006, seafarers are required to have coverage for medical care (Standard 4.1), repatriation (Standard A2.5.2) and contractual claims for sickness and injury (Standard A.4.2.1). Shipowners are urged to check with their providers that their insurance or financial security covers seafarers for COVID-19 related issues and extend their coverage if necessary.

4.2 SEA Extensions

The Ship Registry is aware that travel restrictions related to COVID-19 are disrupting scheduled crew changes. In some cases, this has meant extending the SEAs of the current crew. Provided the following criteria are met, this course of action is acceptable and there is no requirement to contact the Ship Registry:

- The extension of the SEA is mutually agreed by the seafarer and shipowner;
- It is documented by way of a new SEA or addendum to the current SEA, signed by both parties; and
- The service period does not exceed 12 months (or any alternative limit prescribed by an applicable CBA)

If this service period will exceed 12 months (or any alternative limit prescribed by an applicable CBA), then the Ship Registry should be contacted.

4.3 Quarantine/Self-isolation

All seafarers should follow the guidance from the relevant health authorities concerning quarantine and self-isolation. If this occurs whilst the seafarer is in the service of the ship, it shall count as part of their service period.

5. Survey & Certification

The following section applies to disruption caused to statutory surveys or audits as a result of COVID-19. This may be because an IOM or RO's surveyor is unable to attend a vessel due to travel restrictions or issues with the availability of dry-dock facilities.

5.1 Delay in RO Statutory Surveys/Audits

In the event that an RO is unable to undertake a statutory survey or audit, the RO concerned shall submit to the Ship Registry an application for the extension of surveys, inspections or audits and/or the validity of statutory certificates accompanied by a recommendation of the course of action to be followed. All reasonable requests will be looked on favourably and the issuance of short term certification will be authorised on a case-by-case basis.



5.2 Delay in Dry Docking

The Ship Registry will also look favourably on requests for the extension of a vessel's dry docking, or servicing of critical equipment as required under the respective IMO Conventions. In all cases such applications should be supported by the vessel's RO and shall include the reasons and evidence why the vessel is unable to comply. It is strongly advised that owners and managers submit such applications to the RO before the due date of the surveys/audits or expiry date of the statutory certificate in order to avoid port State control issues.

5.3 Delay in Isle of Man General Inspections (GIs)

Where a GI is due and an IOM surveyor is unable to attend, the Ship Registry will issue an exemption on a case-by-case basis with a suitable time scale.

5.4 Delay in IOM Statutory surveys on Large Commercial Yachts

This applies in cases where the Ship Registry undertakes statutory surveys on large yachts i.e. for ISPS, ISM, MLC and REG Yacht Code Compliance surveys.

The Company or yacht should continue to contact the Ship Registry in good time to request an attendance within the survey/audit window. If we are unable to attend we will look favourably at issuing short term certification on a case-by-case basis with a suitable time scale.

5.5 Internal ISM Audits

Companies should be aware that regulation 12.1 of the ISM Code allows up to 15 months between audits in exceptional circumstances. If a Company is unable to undertake internal ISM audits within this range date, the Company is to contact the Ship Registry with reasons why the internal audit cannot be completed. On a case-by-case basis, we will look favourably on issuing an agreement to extend the period beyond 15 months.

5.6 Isle of Man Ship Registry Pre-registration surveys

The Company shall advise the Ship Registry as soon as the date and location for the pre-registration survey is known and we will consider whether attendance is possible. If it is not, we will determine either that the pre-registration survey is postponed. Alternatively we will attend the vessel at a mutually agreed location, for an initial general inspection after the registration on a case-by-case basis.

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.





Merchant Shipping Directorate



EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES RESULTING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Merchant Shipping Notice 158

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

The Directorate wishes to remind all concerned to [MS Notice No.157](#) providing precautionary measures against Novel Coronavirus. Furthermore, we bring to the attention of all concerned to the [Guidance for Ship Operators for the Protection of the Health of Seafarers](#), published by the International Chamber of Shipping.

The Directorate is also very sensitive to the disruptions and difficulties that the recent outbreak of COVID-19, now declared a pandemic, is causing to the shipping industry. We are aware that a large number of ships registered under the Merchant Shipping Act are already facing certain challenges emerging from mandatory quarantine and also from precautionary measures being taken by a number of port authorities around the world.

To this effect, the Directorate wishes to inform all the shipping community of the following:

EXTENSION OF SEA SERVICE BEYOND THE SEAFARER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT PERIOD

Shipowners, Managers and Operators encountering difficulties in repatriating seafarers following the expiration of the term established in the Seafarer's Employment Agreement in terms of the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) Rules, may, on a case-by-case basis request to extend the validity of the Agreement for a maximum period of three months, which period may be extended for further periods upon application, should the situation remain the same. Arrangements for repatriation should be made at the earliest opportunity.

Malta Transport Centre
Hal Lija LJA 2021, Malta

Tel: +356 2125 0360
Email: mershipmalta.tm@transport.gov.mt
www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration



Merchant Shipping Directorate
ISO 9001:2015 certified



Shipowners, Managers and Operators who require such an extension are to submit details of the seafarer/s including the details of the current agreement periods to our dedicated email address mlc.tm@transport.gov.mt.

Any extended period would require an addendum to the Seafarer Employment Agreement under the same terms and conditions as the underlying agreement.

EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF SEAFARER CERTIFICATES BEYOND THEIR EXPIRY DATE

Seafarers, in possession of a Certificate of Competency (CoC) issued by an Administration other than Malta and who are in possession of a Flag State Endorsement issued under the Merchant Shipping Act and in terms of the STCW Convention, which may expire during an extended period on board, may extend the validity of their Flag State Endorsement by submitting a request to the Directorate's dedicated email address applica.stcw@transport.gov.mt.

The request is to include the details of the seafarer, the endorsement number and a copy of a valid (or extension of validity) Certificate of Competency by the issuing Administration of the CoC. The Flag State Endorsement may only be extended up to the date of the extended validity of the CoC.

Holders of Maltese CoCs who have certificates that will expire during an extended period on board or encounter any difficulties in refreshing their underlying certificates are to contact the Directorate on applica.stcw@transport.gov.mt.



Merchant Shipping Directorate



Transport Malta

Merchant Shipping Notice 158
Page 3 of 3

EXTENSION OF STATUTORY CERTIFICATES, SURVEYS, AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 disease, attendance of statutory surveys has become increasingly difficult. Furthermore, several shipyards cannot accommodate ships, for both booked and planned supervisions requiring dry docking.

In view of these exceptional circumstances, in cases where surveyors, auditors and/or inspectors are not able to undertake scheduled surveys, audit and inspections due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19, this Directorate will consider requests for extension/postponement under *force majeure* or unforeseen exceptional circumstances, on a case by case basis.

For statutory surveys delegated to Recognised Organisations, the respective recognised organisation shall make an application to this Directorate on the owner's behalf, including all supporting information.

All requests are to be sent by email on tech.tm@transport.gov.mt.

Merchant Shipping Directorate

17 March 2020

Malta Transport Centre
Hal Lija LJA 2021, Malta

Tel: +356 2125 0360
Email: merhipmalta.tm@transport.gov.mt
www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration



Merchant Shipping Directorate
ISO 9001:2015 certified

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

11495 COMMERCE PARK DRIVE, RESTON, VIRGINIA 20191-1506
TELEPHONE: +1-703-620-4880 FAX: +1-703-476-8522
EMAIL: maritime@register-iri.com WEBSITE: www.register-iri.com

MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 09-20

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: CORONAVIRUS DISEASE PRECAUTIONS

Date: 10 March 2020

This Marine Safety Advisory (MSA) supersedes MSA No. 05-20.

1.0 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) is providing the following information and advice on the COVID-19 for RMI-flagged vessels and seafarers. This outbreak has been declared a worldwide emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO). Global surveillance is continual, and cases have been discovered worldwide. Many cases are directly connected to individuals who have visited the affected region in China.

2.0 Vessel Calls in Affected Ports

2.1 WHO remains the primary source of [information](#) for advice on trading and traveling to regions and countries where COVID-19 risks exist. They have stated that, if certain measures are taken, there should be no “unnecessary restrictions of international traffic.” Nevertheless, RMI-flagged vessels are advised to adopt precautionary measures and seek updated information and requirements from local sources prior to making port calls in such areas.

2.2 Follow WHO’s standard recommendations to reduce exposure to, and transmission of, the disease, including:

- Cleaning hands frequently by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water;
- When coughing and sneezing, cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue, then immediately throw the tissue away and wash hands;
- Avoiding close contact with anyone who has fever and cough; and
- Avoiding the consumption of raw or undercooked animal products and the cross-contamination of uncooked foods as per good food safety practices.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.

- 2.3 Limit or restrict access to vessels when calling at affected areas. Under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), steps may be taken to ensure vessel and crew safety. These could include but are not limited to:
- Refusing entry to anyone appearing ill; and
 - Mandating washing or alcohol hand sanitizing regimes for stevedores and others at the base of the gangway.
- 2.4 Scrupulously clean and disinfect the ship according to its cleaning regime, but particularly spaces used by visitors.
- 2.5 Vessels calling at ports in COVID-19 affected areas should consider whether the ships security plan is correctly implemented, and the crew should be extra vigilant for any stowaways trying to board the ship. It is strongly recommended that a 24-hour security watch be maintained while in port and that additional searches are carried out before departing the port. Specific instructions should be given to watch standers to only allow people to board as required for the ships business. Visitors should not be allowed to access the crew accommodation area without permission and at a minimum an initial screening.
- 2.6 Make certain that there are adequate food, medicines, and fresh water supplies aboard the vessel prior to calling on China or other affected areas. This is to preclude any hardships that may arise due to limited or delayed victualling.

3.0 Vessel Inspections and Other Boardings in China

As of this writing, but subject to daily review:

- The Administrator is temporarily suspending all vessel inspections and other boardings within Chinese ports.
- The Administrator will not inspect vessels arriving at an overseas port from China until 14 days (the incubation period) has elapsed from leaving the last Chinese port.

4.0 Crew Contracts

- 4.1 The Administrator is aware that stringent boarder control measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 has resulted in operators having difficulty in arranging crew changes and repatriating seafarers when their employment agreements expire. As a result, some seafarers employed to work on RMI-flagged ships may exceed the service period as entered in their seafarer employment agreements (SEA).
- 4.2 The Administrator allows for extended SEAs as provided in RMI Marine Notice [7-052-2](#). It also recognizes in contrast to this position that some port States hold a rigid interpretation that a SEA may not be extended beyond 11 months or its original contract date, if less than that period.

- 4.3 The Administrator is handling these COVID-19 contract and repatriation issues on a case-by-case basis. It encourages dialog between the relevant stakeholders (flag State, shipowner, seafarer, and port State) so that a practicable way forward to an already difficult situation may be taken. While it is important that the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) is complied with and enforced, ships and crew should not be unreasonably detained or delayed per MLC, 2006, Standard 5.2.1.8, because of the lack of flexibility in this unforeseen circumstance.
- 4.4 Shipowners, managers, and crewing agencies are also instructed to think ahead and prepare for seafarer and crew relief in light of the current circumstances.

5.0 Additional Information and Resources

More information, including situational reports and technical guidance, can be found at:

- [IMO Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Public Health Emergency of International Concern and Advice for IMO Member States, Seafarers, and Shipping](#)
- [WHO Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Outbreak](#)
- [WHO Operational Considerations for Managing COVID-19 Cases/Outbreak on Board Ships](#)
- [United States \(US\) Coast Guard Marine Safety Information Bulletin 01-20](#)
- [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

11495 COMMERCE PARK DRIVE, RESTON, VIRGINIA 20191-1506
TELEPHONE: +1-703-620-4880 FAX: +1-703-476-8522
EMAIL: maritime@register-iri.com WEBSITE: www.register-iri.com

MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 11-20

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: HANDLING ISM, ISPS, AND MLC, 2006 DUE TO THE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE OF COVID-19

Date: 20 March 2020

This Marine Safety Advisory (MSA) provides information on alternative arrangements where an auditor or inspector cannot attend due to restrictions imposed as a result of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. It applies to inspections, audits, and verifications coming due prior to 01 July 2020. Except as otherwise stated within this MSA, a Recognized Organization (RO) or Recognized Security Organization (RSO) must inform and obtain concurrence from the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the "Administrator") when utilizing these alternatives.

1.0 International Safety Management (ISM) Code

1.1 Internal Annual ISM Verification

The Administrator will allow for a three-month extension to the 12-month interval for shoreside and shipboard internal audits, as it has determined that COVID-19 constitutes an *exceptional circumstance* for the purposes of §7.4 of RMI Marine Notice [2-011-13](#) and ISM Code §12.1.

For audits to be carried out during the extension period, the Administrator will accept a remote audit in lieu of a physical audit if it meets the requirements of the ISM Code.

1.2 External Initial ISM Verification

The Administrator will authorize an extension of the Interim Safety Management Certificate (SMC) in accordance with ISM Code §14.3. The validity will be for the minimum period required to complete the initial verification.

1.3 Intermediate ISM Verification

The Administrator will authorize the issuance of a short-term SMC that is valid for a period of no longer than three months. Supporting documentation from the RO must show that the Company's original request for the verification was made prior to the SMC's third anniversary date.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.

1.4 External Renewal ISM Verification

The Administrator will authorize an extension of the SMC for no longer than three months in accordance with ISM Code §13.14.

1.5 Document of Compliance Verification

Where a Company cannot complete the required Document of Compliance (DOC) verifications in accordance with ISM Code, the Administrator will authorize the issuance of a short-term DOC. This will be handled on a case-by-case basis upon a recommendation from the RO.

2.0 International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code

2.1 Internal Annual ISPS Verification

Refer to §1.1 of this MSA.

2.2 Initial ISPS Verification

The Administrator will authorize a consecutive Interim International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) in accordance with ISPS Code A-19.4.5. The validity will be for the minimum period required to complete the initial verification.

2.3 Intermediate ISPS Verification

The Administrator will authorize the issuance of a short-term ISSC that is valid for a period of no longer than three months. Supporting documentation from the RSO must show that the Company's original request for the verification was made prior to the ISSC's third anniversary date.

2.4 Renewal ISPS Verification

The Administrator will authorize an extension of the ISSC for no longer than three months in accordance with ISPS Code A-19.3.5.

3.0 Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006)

MLC, 2006 does not provide for the extension of initial, intermediate, or renewal inspections. However, where there is adequate justification and supporting documentation that an inspector is unable to attend, a short-term certificate may be issued. The validity will be for the minimum period required to complete the required inspection.

4.0 Contact

All queries regarding information in this MSA should be sent to the Administrator at: technical@register-iri.com.



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 and Seafarers employment agreement and Certificates

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 (COVID-19), the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a state of global health emergency, causing massive uncertainty across the global trade, resulting in additional implication for the regular shipping operations. The coronavirus outbreak has spread rapidly extended further to several countries.
2. The effects of this outbreak are having a repercussion with the seafarers whose Certificate/s have expired or will expire soon, where the companies are facing problems because their planned disembarkation cannot be safely completed in ports affected by the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus.
3. As it has been determined with extensive travel restrictions to and within infected and non-infected countries, moving personnel has become more difficult, resulting in harsh scrutinizing seafarers who have recently visited affected areas.
4. This Administration considers appropriate to inform how to proceed in the following scenarios of crew change:
 - 4.1. If the seafarers employment agreement expires or will expire soon, an exception to Standard A2.4.3 "Entitlement to leave", and Standard A2.5.1.2(b) "Repatriation" of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006, will be granted in order to extend it.
 - 4.2. In those cases where the change of crew, due to expiration of the Certificate/s, cannot be carried out due to the Corona Virus outbreak, this Administration shall consider appropriate the issuance of an Extension or Dispensation Letter evaluating the nature of the case.
5. In this sense, this Administration has determined the following instructions for the issuance of the correspondent letter:

5.1. Extension of Seafarers employment Agreement

This letters to extend the Seafarers Employment Agreement shall be issued by the SEGUMAR Offices, and shall submit the following requirements:

- a) Email requesting the extension of the Certificate, including the particulars of the vessel, crew name and position on board,
- b) Copy of the Seafarer Employment Agreement (SEA) of each seafarer requesting the extension

- c) Crew List,
- d) Copy of the Registry certificate

Be informed that the given exception letter according to this Marine Notice will be for a period of three (3) months to continue being engaged f under their seafarers' employment agreements beyond a period of 11 months. The granted extension will be reviewed considering the condition of the COVID-19.

It is understood that at the end of the extension provided by this Administration, all 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.

5.2. Extension of Seafarers Certificates including Certificates of Endorsement

This letter shall be issued for the certificates issued by the Panama Maritime Authority under the Regulation I/2 and I/10 of the STCW'78 Convention, as amended. This letters shall be issued by the SEGUMAR Offices, and shall submit the following requirements:

- a) Email requesting the extension of the Certificate, including the particulars of the vessel, crew name and position on board,
- b) For extension of certificate under regulation I/2, Copy of the Certificate/s issued by the Panama Maritime Authority.
- c) For the Extension of Certificates issued under regulation I/10, shall submitted the Authorization letter of extension of the issuance Country and copy of the Home Country License.
- d) Crew List,
- e) Copy of the Registry Certificate

Be informed that the given extension according to this Marine Notice will be for a period of three (3) months from the date of expiration of the certificate/s, and reviewed whether the granted extension shall require additional period considering the condition of the (COVID-19).

5.3. Dispensation Letter

If any Third Party member of the STCW'78 Convention, who issued the Seafarers Certificate has not extended it due to Corona Virus outbreak, this Administration shall grant a Dispensation Letter to the capacity (rank) under the requirements stated in the Merchant Marine Circular No. 175 and the form established by the circular MMC-191 "[Crew Dispensation Form](#)" shall be submitted along with the following documents:

- a) Copy of the Certificate/s,
- b) Crew List,
- c) Copy of the Registry Certificate.

6. Please contact the SEGUMAR Offices of your convenience to the following e-mail addresses:

America	
SEGUMAR Panama	msm@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Miami	segumar.miami@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Houston	offshore@segumar.com
Asia	
SEGUMAR Tokyo	segumar@panaconsul-tokyo.com
SEGUMAR Imabari	segumar.imabari@segumar.com rchacon@segumarimabari.jp
SEGUMAR Seoul	segumarseoul@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Busan	segumarbusan@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Singapore	segumar.sg@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Shanghai	segumar.shanghai@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Manila	segumar.manila@segumar.com
Europe	
SEGUMAR Piraeus	segumarpg@segumar.com ;
SEGUMAR Istanbul	segumarist@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Dubai	segumar.dubai@segumar.com
SEGUMAR London	segumar.uk@segumar.com

7. If the Medical Certificates expires, it shall continue in force in this exceptional circumstance for a period of three (3) months from its expiry date (MLC, 2006 Standard A1.2.9).
8. Certificates of proficiency issued by an authorized Maritime Training Center of Panama in accordance with the regulation V and VI of the STCW amended (except those issued under regulation I/2) will be considered valid for a period of three (3) months from its expiry date.
9. Finally, this measure established would be revised accordingly to the condition of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) across the global trade in the maritime sector.

***March, 2020 – Coronavirus Prevention Measures
February, 2020 – Coronavirus Prevention Measure.***

***Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any other request should be directed to:
Certification Department / SEGUMAR
General Directorate of Seafarers / General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority***

Phone: (507) 501-5062 / 5010

E-mail: verification@amp.gob.pa / msm@segumar.com



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
Technical Office – Segumar Panama
Pan-Canal Building 4th fl., Omar Torrijos Herrera Ave. Albrook
Panama City, Panama

Tel: (507) 501-5361/62/50
Fax: (507) 501-5363/64
E-mail: msm@segumar.com

Application for Crew Dispensation Letters

Date: _____

We, _____, are the crew management company of the below described vessel and we kindly request the issuance of a dispensation letter:

Vessel Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

IMO Number: _____

Registry Number: _____

Gross Tonnage: _____

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Requirement</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Medically Unfit	<i>Medical Report /Master Report</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Reasons	<i>Master Report</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Country License	<i>Crew Members' Home Country License</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Circumstances	<i>Specify</i>

Table No. 1

Reason description: _____

Crew Member who will be disembark: _____

Capacity of the Crew Member who will be disembark: _____

Departure Port: _____

Estimated Time of Departure: _____



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
Technical Office – Segumar Panama
Pan-Canal Building 4th fl., Omar Torrijos Herrera Ave. Albrook
Panama City, Panama

Tel: (507) 501-5361/62/50
Fax: (507) 501-5363/64
E-mail: msm@segumar.com

Arrival Port: _____

Estimated Time of Arrival: _____

Full Style of the Company: _____

In addition to the above mentioned information, please provide the following documents:

1. Crew List
2. Registry Certificate/Navigation Patente
3. Document required according the reason for the dispensation (**see Table No. 1**)

****For a prompt response, please revert this application filled out and attached documents as soon as possible.**



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° GEN 025 - Rev 1.

COVID-19 ADVICE FROM MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

TO: **SHIP OWNERS/SHIP OPERATORS/MANAGERS,
MASTERS AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS
AND FLAG STATE INSPECTORS**

APPLICABLE TO: All ships

EFFECTIVE AS FROM: 18 March 2020

Date: 25th March 2020

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is resulting in various restrictions and limitations which seriously affect the continuity of maritime operations on a global scale.

Ability to travel, both nationally and internationally, has become increasingly difficult as travel bans have been imposed. Based on the above conditions, this Administration considers the COVID-19 outbreak to be a force majeure situation

In order to assist the Shipowners/Ship Operators/Managers and Recognized Organizations (RO) as much as possible please note the following:

Scheduled Statutory Surveys

In cases where RO surveyors are not able to undertake scheduled surveys due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19, this Administration will consider applications for extension/postponement under force majeure on a case-by-case basis. The Shipowners/Ship Operators/Managers should use application form as per GEN 001 circular. The application form should be stamped, signed and commented by RO.

Dry docking surveys and servicing of ship's equipment

Extension of a vessel's dry docking surveys or servicing of ship's equipment as required by IMO Conventions due to COVID-19 may be requested. The Shipowners/Ship Operators/Managers should use application form as per GEN 001 circular. The application form should be stamped, signed and commented by RO. The applications should be submitted before the due date of the surveys or expiry date of the statutory certificate in order to avoid port State Control issues.

ISM internal audits

This Administration will, at the ISM Manager's request, extend annual ISM internal audits for up to three (3) months, as per para 12.1 of the ISM Code in cases where audits cannot be carried out due to travel restrictions imposed due to COVID-19.

Safety Management Certificates (SMC) and International Ship Security Certificates (ISSC)

With regards to SMC and ISSC renewal audits, and noting the provisions of ISM Code 13.14 and ISPS Code A-19.3.5, this Administration may authorise its Recognised Organisations to issue three (3) month extensions to existing SMC and ISSC Certificates.

The ISM Manager should use application form as per GEN 001 circular. The application form should be stamped, signed and commented by RO.

Maritime Labour Certificats (ML Certificats)

MLC 2006 does not allow extensions to existing MLC Certificates without an MLC inspection. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this Administration may authorise its Recognised Organisations to administratively issue a ML Certificate for three (3) months where the renewal inspection cannot be conducted.

Annual Flag State Inspections and Pre-registration inspections

Due Annual Flag State Inspections will be carried out subject to availability of the Flag State Inspectors.

In case that Pre-registration inspection cannot take place due to COVID-19 restrictions an Inspector of this Administration will attend the vessel at a mutually agreed location, for an initial general inspection after the registration on a case-by-case basis.

Seafarers Employment Agreements and repatriation

In cases where crew members may have to exceed the twelve (12) months or contractual period onboard as stated in their original Seafarers' Employment Agreement (SEA) because of travel restrictions imposed due to COVID-19, this Administration will consider such extensions to be force majeure and therefore not a breach of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended. A new SEA shall be signed by both parties with the clause that the seafarer is entitled to repatriation at no cost to the seafarer at seven (7) days notice.

Extension of the validity of STCW Endorsements attesting the Recognition of Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency

Endorsements attesting the Recognition of Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency expire may be extended if national Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency are extended as well.

Applications should be submitted to this Administration including Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency endorsed with a new expiry date by the issuing Administration. Some of the issuing authorities have issued circulars with general extension of Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency until certain dates. A copy of such circular may be forwarded as supporting documentation.

Seamen's Books may be extended upon request to this Administration.

Medical Certificates

Due to the exceptional circumstances this administration follows the Regulation I/9 of the STCW Convention as amended, and Regulation 1.2 of the MLC Convention 2006, as amended. Seafarers with a medical certificate about to expire or no longer valid will be allowed to keep serving on board for a period of up to three (3) months.

These temporary measures shall remain in place for a period of **three (3) months** starting from **18 March 2020** and are subject to review as the situation develops.

This Circular should be kept on board ready to be disclosed to PSC Officers.

Revision history:

REV-1, Added titles:

Extension of the validity of STCW Endorsements attesting the Recognition of Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency, Seamen's Books, Medical Certificates.

To: Roderick Acquie <RAcquie@vanuatuships.com>

Subject: COVID-19: ISM internal audits and ISM/ISPS/MLC renewal audits

Dear RO representatives,

Vanuatu Maritime Services Ltd. has prepared the following interim policy to accommodate any possible disruptions with regard to ISM/ISPS/MLC audits.

1. This Administration considers COVID-19 an exceptional situation.
2. With respect to internal audits, we accept the alternative audit approach below:
 - 2a. Masters may audit the Engine Department, and Chief Engineer may audit the Bridge Department, if possible under remote supervision from qualified internal auditor/DPA from company.
 - 2b. When the Corona crisis is over, the Company should attempt to carry out a follow up audit of the vessel
3. Recognized Organizations are authorized to postpone any ISM/ISPS/MLC audit due by 15 April 2020 for a period of not more than 30 days from the due date without prior authorization provided that the Administration is informed about the extension. This authorization is only valid for COVID-19 reasons. All other cases must be submitted to the Administration for approval. When informing the Administration, please include:
 - 3a. Due date of the audit
 - 3b. copy of the relevant certificate
4. This policy will be reviewed and revised as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve.

Best regards,

Roderick A. Acquie
Director of Operations
Vanuatu Maritime Services Ltd.
39 Broadway, Suite 2020
New York, New York 10006
Tel: 212 425 9600
Fax: 212 425 9652
Cell: 347-351-0086 (For After Hour Emergency Use Only)
Email: racquie@vanuatuships.com
www.vanuatumaritimeships.com