

---

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT  
LONDON SE1 7SR  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.4237/Add.15  
16 November 2020

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has sent the attached communication, dated 16 November 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

\*\*\*





වරාය හා නාවික කටයුතු අමාත්‍යාංශය

(වෙළඳ නාවික ලේකම් කාර්යාලය)

துறைமுகங்கள் மற்றும் கப்பற்றுறை அமைச்சு

(வணிகக் கப்பற்றுறைச் செயலகம்)

Ministry of Ports and Shipping

(Merchant Shipping Secretariat)

මගේ අංකය }  
My No. } MSS/DG/7/414  
எனது இலக்கம் }

ඔබේ අංකය }  
Your No. }  
உமது இலக்கம் }

දිනය }  
Date } 16.11.2020  
திகதி }

His Excellency Kitack Lim  
Secretary General  
International Maritime Organization

Dear Secretary General

**Re: Revised General information adopted by the Government of Sri Lanka in order to extend and revalidation of certificates of seafarers in the view of ongoing COVID- 19 pandemic**

In view of the present uncertainty that have been caused due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the country and having evaluated the difficulties encountered by the seafarers, recruitment agencies and ship-owners, the Merchant Shipping Secretariat as the Maritime Administration of Sri Lanka has implemented attached further steps to extend and revalidate the certificates of seafarers and I hereby request to communicate with all member states of IMO.

I appreciate your valuable attention and efforts in advance.

Yours sincerely

A.W.Senaviratne

Director General of Merchant Shipping



# DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

## MERCHANT SHIPPING SECRETARIAT MINISTRY OF PORTS AND SHIPPING

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Bristol Building, 43-89, York Street, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka.

Telephone: +94(0)112435127, Fax: +94(0)112435160, E-mail: [dmsmos@sltnet.lk](mailto:dmsmos@sltnet.lk)

### MSN 07/2020 - Revised

MSN 07/2020 has been revised with effect from 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Notice to:**

**All Seafarers;**

**Port State Control Authorities;**

**Ship-Owners, Operators Managers and Masters;**

**Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Service Providers;**

**Recognized Organizations; and**

**All other Concerned Parties.**

### Certification of Seafarers- Extra ordinary Measures Resulting COVID -19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the conducting of training programmes, revalidation of certificates of seafarers and ship to shore interactions including crew changes. As a result, the ship owners, Operators and Seafarers recruitment and placement service providers are seeking protracted validity period of certificates of Sri Lankan seafarers in order to gain continuing employment opportunities on board ships.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has issued circular letter No. 4204/Add.5/Rev.1 dated on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020, to encourage STCW certificates issuing administrations to take pragmatic and practical approach regarding the extension of certificates including medical certificates, and other associated endorsements due to the COVID -19 outbreak. Accordingly, Merchant Shipping Secretariat (MSS) has taken following further steps to extend the validity and revalidation of certificates of seafarers.

All seafarers are encouraged to apply for revalidation of their National Continuous Discharge Certificate / Certificate of Competency/ Certificate of Proficiency (CDC/COC/COP) including certificates required under chapter V and VI of the STCW convention and cooks 'certificates issued under MLC after completing their online/offline courses, as applicable to their certificate to be revalidated at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the standard requirements for revalidation. In which case, the 5-year validity date shall be reckoned from the original expiration date of the previous certificate.

## 1. Extension of the validity of Seafarers Certification.

- 1.1. All CDCs, COCs, training certificates (i.e., certificates issued under chapter V and VI of the STCW convention), associated endorsements and cooks' certificates issued by the MSS, that are expiring between **01 May 2020 and 30 December 2021**(both dates inclusive) will be extended till **31 December 2021**. This applies to all above mentioned certificates of Seafarers who are both onboard or ashore.
- 1.2. Certificates of Recognition-COR (Endorsement attesting the recognition of national certificates of competency) and applications for issuing COR, that are expiring between **01 May 2020 and 30 December 2021**(both dates inclusive) will remain valid for a maximum period up to **31 December 2021**, or earlier date as provided by a similar extension issued by the competent authority of the Country which issued the certificates of competency.
- 1.3. There is no application required to be made for the aforementioned extension of certificates.

## 2. Revalidation of Certificates

- 2.1. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 above, seafarers who were affected by the suspension and or unavailability of training and assessment programmes, their STCW certificates will be revalidated without any requirement of refresher training and /or practical assessment of competence, Online request will be accepted and accordingly, CDC/COC/COP certificates will be endorsed for a period of **one (1) year** from the date of expiry of the certificate subject to the following:
  - 2.1.1 **Twelve Months** of seagoing experience in total during the preceding five years.; or
  - 2.1.2 **Three Months** of seagoing experience in total during the preceding six months immediately prior to revalidating.
- 2.2 The tanker COPs will be revalidated, even if expired, when the seafarer has completed approved seagoing service, performing the duties appropriate to the tanker certificate held, for a period of at least three (3) months in total during the preceding 5 years.
- 2.3 Seafarers applying for revalidation of COPs and COCs shall meet the standards of medical fitness specified in section A-I/9 of the STCW Code and shall possess a valid medical certificate.
- 2.4 In order to verify the seafarers seagoing experience mentioned in sub paragraph 2.1 above, mandatory documents required for the process of revalidation are as follows;
  - 2.4.1 Original COC/CDC/COP certificate(s) to be revalidated.;
  - 2.4.2 Copy of CDC pages showing sea service records.;

- 2.4.3 Valid medical certificate issued by approved medical practitioner.;
- 2.4.4 Copy of Passport which includes in/out immigration stamps pages; and
- 2.4.5 Deck or Engine watch keeping certificates.
- 2.4.6 Sea service testimonials.

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

### **3 Medical certificates issued under MLC.**

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

- i. All medical certificates which have expired or are expiring will be extended for the period of three (3) months from the date of expiry in accordance with STCW 78 as amended.
- ii. Extension referred in sub paragraph i above, may be further extended for another three (3) months for seafarers who are unable to sign off due to various restrictions of port of calls, subject to following conditions.
  - a. Each request will be handled individually. (case by case)
  - b. Duly completed form of application as prescribed in annexure-1 to this notice shall be submitted to the MSS with a copy of the existing medical certificate.

Issued on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Director General of Merchant Shipping  
Merchant Shipping Secretariat  
Ministry of Ports and Shipping  
Tel : +94-11-2435127 / +94-11-2430305  
Fax : +94-11-2435160  
E-mail : [dmsmos@sltnet.lk](mailto:dmsmos@sltnet.lk)  
Web : [www.dgshipping.gov.lk](http://www.dgshipping.gov.lk)



25. Depression		
26. Have you attempted suicide		
27. Loss of memory		
28. Imbalance situations		
29. Severe headache		
30. Ear (Hearing, tinnitus) / Nose / Throat disorders		
31. Restricted mobility		
32. Back or joint injuries / disorders		
33. Amputation		
34. Fractures / Dislocations		

If you have answered "YES" to any of the questions above, please specify:

**MEDICAL HISTORY – 2 (to be filled by the Master)**

	YES	NO
35. Has the seafarer ever been hospitalized during the contract?		
36. Has the seafarer ever been declared unfit for duty?		
37. Are you aware any medical problems, diseases or illnesses during his stay on board?		
38. Do you feel that seafarer is healthy and fit to perform the duties of your designated position / occupation?		

If you have answered "YES" to any of the questions above, please specify:

Masters Recommendation

Signature and Ship Stamp