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Circular Letter No.4288/Add.1
2 August 2021

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania**

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has sent the attached communication, dated 28 July 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

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Government City Mtumba, 1 Ujenzi
Street,
P.o.Box 638,
40470 DODOMA.

In reply please quote:

Ref. No: CAB.151/187/0131

29th July,2021

Secretary General
His Excellency Kitack Lim
International Maritime Organisation
4 Albert Embankment London SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7735 7611
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LONDON .
UNITED KINGDOM

Re: AMENDMENT OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE (MSN 2420) ON
EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF CERTIFICATES FOR SEAFARERS
WORKING ON BOARD SHIPS AT INTERNATIONAL SEAS

Kindly refer to International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.5 dated 17th March 2020 regarding extension to the validity of Seafarers Certificates in view of COVID – 19 outbreak.

2. In May, 2020 United Republic of Tanzania (URT) provided the Merchant Shipping Notice 2420 (MSN 2420) following revised requirements in respect of the extension of validity of certificates for Seafarers serving onboard the ships worldwide due to COVID 19 Pandemic.
3. In reference to the mentioned MSN 2420 which was issued by URT and submitted to IMO, we are hereby informing you that Tanzania Maritime Administration has amended it in order to allow Seafarers with certificates and documents which will expire before 1st October, 2021 to be extended for three (3) Months without attending revalidation due to COVID 19 pandemic.
4. With the great honour, we kindly request you, the IMO Secretary General to circulate this information to all Member States of the IMO to be guided and for their reference.
5. Let me avail myself of this opportunity to renew to your Excellency and International Maritime Organisation assurance of our highest consideration and express hope for further cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel J. Migire'.

Gabriel J. Migire

PERMANENT SECRETARY - TRANSPORT



MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE

MSN 2420

Amendment 1/2021

Guidance Relating to the Extension of Validity for Seafarers Documents and Certificates due to Coronavirus (COVID - 19) Pandemic

This notice is hereby issued to all ship owners, small craft owners, fishing vessel owners, Masters, officers and other related parties.

1.0 Introduction:

- 1.1 Noting the danger created by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Prime Minister ordered among other things the closure of all schools and higher learning institutions as preventive measure against the spread of the virus in the country. Hence, seafarers both onboard and ashore have no opportunity to attend refresher training leading to the revalidation of their certificates upon expiration.
- 1.2 In light of the coronavirus pandemic, on 17th March 2020 the International Maritime Organization (IMO) issued Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5 encouraging administrations to take pragmatic and practical approach with regard to the extension of validity documents and certificates in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.
- 1.3 In June 2021 the Government through the Ministry of Health, Community development, Gender, Gender, Elderly and Children warned of a third wave of COVID-19 and directed that all precautions to be taken for protection against infection.
- 1.4 Pursuant to Section 51 of the Written Laws, (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No.6) Act 2019, the Registrar shall take appropriate steps to advice and communicate to the seafaring community and the public of any developing or existing situation which may adversely affect maritime safety, security and prevention of marine pollution.

2.0 Guidance

- 2.1 Certificates of competency and Certificates of proficiency which will expire before 1st October 2021 will be accepted with general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) months after date of expiry;

- 2.2 Medical fitness certificates which will expire before 1st October 2021 will be accepted with general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) months;
- 2.3 Continuous Discharge Certificates (CDC) which will expiry before 1st October 2021 will be accepted with general extended validity for a period up to three (3) months;
- 2.4 Endorsements confirming or recognizing a certificate of competency, certificate of proficiency, certificate of an approved training course and certificate of GMDSS radio operator which will expire before 1st October 2021 will be accepted with a general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) and
- 2.5 Within the extended period the individual seafarers will not be required to apply for extensions of validity of a particular certificate or document.

3.0. This Notice may be amended again at any time taking into consideration any additional guidance and advise or instructions provided by the Ministry of Health, Community development, Gender, Gender Elderly and Children, IMO and other Organization. Any further request for information or clarifications should made through the contact provided below:

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Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC)
8th Floor PPF Tower, Ohio Street/Garden Avenue
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