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Circular Letter No.4232/Add.12  
17 August 2021

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of Ukraine**

The Government of Ukraine has sent the attached communication, dated 16 August 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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in the United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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Ref. 6124/23-327/2- *209*

The Embassy of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization and has the honour to transmit herewith the official letter of Mr. Oleksandr KUBRAKOV, Minister for Infrastructure of Ukraine, dated 28.07.2021 Nr.2758/46/14-21 on additional measures adopted by Ukraine in response to COVID-19 pandemic, including the extension of validity of seafarers' certificates.

The Ukrainian Side kindly asks the IMO Secretariat to disseminate the attached information among IMO Member States, international organizations which have concluded agreements of cooperation with the IMO and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the IMO.

The Embassy of Ukraine avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the IMO Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl. on 4 pages.



London, *16* August 2021

**Secretariat**  
**International Maritime Organization**  
**4 Albert Embankment**  
**London SE1 7SR**

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H. E. Mr. Kitack Lim  
Secretary-General  
International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment, Prince's, London  
SE1 7SR, United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Lim!

On behalf of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine I would like to express our profound respect to the International Maritime Organization.

Given the current situation and the introduction of restrictive measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the world and Ukraine; and considering that many companies are unable to secure timely crew changes, in addition to the letters of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine № 890/46/14-20 of 23<sup>st</sup> March 2020, № 5021/46/10-20 of 13<sup>st</sup> April 2020, № 1635/46/14-20 of 28<sup>st</sup> May 2020, № 12951/46/10-20 of 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2020, № 4144/46/14-20 of 08<sup>st</sup> Desember 2020 and № 2196/46/14-21 of 18<sup>th</sup> of June herewith we inform you of the measures adopted and enforced by Ukraine with regard to the validity of seafarers' qualification documents, issued on behalf of Ukraine to seafarers, who are currently on voyage or ashore.

We would be very grateful in the Secretariat circulates this letter among all IMO Member States.

Let me avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency and the International Maritime Organization assurances of my highest consideration and express hope for further fruitful cooperation.

Attachment: Measures Adopted and Enforced by Ukraine (3 pages).

Minister

  
Oleksandr KUBRAKOV

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№2758/46/14-21 від 28.07.2021

**Annex to the letter of the Ministry of  
Infrastructure of Ukraine**

**Dated** 28.07.2021

**№** 2758/46/14-21

**MEASURES ADOPTED AND ENFORCED BY UKRAINE  
in response TO COVID-19**

**I. Flag State**

Since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, it has become increasingly difficult to access statutory surveys. Furthermore, several shipyards are unable to accommodate vessels, for both booked and routine surveys requiring dry docking. In view of these exceptional circumstances, in cases where surveyors, auditors and/or flag state inspectors are unable to conduct routine surveys, audit or inspections due to COVID-imposed restrictions, the State Service for Maritime and River Transport of Ukraine will consider requests for extension/postponement under force majeure or unforeseen exceptional circumstances on a case by case basis.

The same approach will be followed for the vessels operating on the Danube river.

**II. Port State Control**

No restrictions are applied.

**III. Validity of Seafarer's Certificates**

Extension of the validity of seafarers' documents beyond their expiry date:

1.1 Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency of seafarers, who are currently ONBOARD.

The validity of Ukrainian Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) of seafarers, who are currently ONBOARD, that expired on or after 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 or later and cannot be renewed due to exceptional circumstances resulting from COVID-19 outbreak, are now extended until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 from the date of expiry in case the following requirements are met:

- Flag State of the vessel recognizes such an extension;
- Seafarer's Employment Agreement (SEA) should be extended for the same period and on the same terms and conditions.

Additional appeals to the Ukrainian authorities are not required.

At the same time, shipowners/operators should only inform the relevant state authorities of Ukraine about each case of extension of seafarers' employment agreements via [psc.ua@marad.gov.ua](mailto:psc.ua@marad.gov.ua), [m.melnyk@mtu.gov.ua](mailto:m.melnyk@mtu.gov.ua). Such notification should include: name of the shipowner/operator, name and IMO number of the vessel, full name and position of the seafarer, scanned copies or details of the seafarer's documents and a copy of the SEA extension.

Such an extension does not require any separate official confirmation.

1.2. Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency of seafarers, who are currently ASHORE.

The validity of Ukrainian Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) of seafarers, who are currently ASHORE, that expired on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 or later and cannot be renewed due to exceptional circumstances resulting from COVID-19 outbreak, are now extended until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 from the date of expiry in case the following requirements are met:

1) having approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held for a period of at least twelve months in total during the preceding five years, or three month in total during the preceding six month immediately prior to revalidating, or

2) having completed approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held for a period of not less than three months in a supernumerary capacity, or in a lower officer rank than that for which the certificate held is valid immediately prior to taking up the rank for which it is valid;

3) having a valid medical certificate according to the Regulation I/9 of the STCW Convention 1978.

Such an extension does not require any separate official confirmation.

At the same time, shipowners/operators should only inform the relevant state authorities of Ukraine via [psc.ua@marad.gov.ua](mailto:psc.ua@marad.gov.ua), [m.melnyk@mtu.gov.ua](mailto:m.melnyk@mtu.gov.ua) about each Ukrainian seafarer with whom an employment contract has been concluded. Such notification should include: name of the shipowner/operator, name and IMO number of the vessel, full name and position of the seafarer, scanned copies or details of the seafarer's documents.

### 1.3. Medical certificates

Based on paragraph 6 of the Regulation I/9 of the STCW Convention 1978, seafarers may work without a valid medical certificate expires until the next port of call where a medical practitioner recognized by the Party of the STCW Convention 1978 is available, provided that:

1) the period of such permission does not exceed three months:

2) the seafarers concerned is in possession of an expired medical certificate during the terms of validity of the current SEA

### 1.4. Seafarers' Identity Document.

The validity of Ukrainian Seafarers Identity Documents on board vessels, which expire on or after 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 is now extended until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 from the date of expiry.

1.5. Seafarers who are ashore, and whose Seafarer's Identity Documents or Medical Certificates have expired or will soon expire, we recommend revalidate them.

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