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Circular Letter No.4232/Add.18  
16 November 2022

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 15 November 2022, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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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, in addition to its previous communications, has the honour to transmit an updated list of measures adopted and enforced by the Government of Ukraine with regard to the extension of validity of seafarers' certificates due to exceptional circumstances resulting from Russian armed invasion of Ukraine and COVID-19 outbreak.

The Ukrainian Side kindly asks the IMO Secretariat to disseminate the attached information among IMO Member States, international organizations that 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 3 pages.



November 2022

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

## **MEASURES ADOPTED AND ENFORCED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE DUE TO THE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES RESULTING FROM RUSSIAN ARMED AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE AND COVID-19 OUTBREAK.**

In 2014, the Russian Federation, in violation of the UN Charter, launched an unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine. Since February 24, 2022, Russian armed aggression against Ukraine entered a new level of a full-scale invasion.

Since February 2022, on a daily basis, the armed forces of the Russian Federation are killing not only Ukrainian civilians but destroying civilian and critical infrastructure on the territory of Ukraine with systematic rocket and artillery attacks.

In addition to that, it should be noted that constant shelling from the sea by Russian warships of the seaport of Odesa and other seaports located on the Black Sea coast, as well as the fact that the Black Sea maritime zone adjacent to the seaport of Odesa was mined by Russian sea mines, made any navigation in these waters extremely dangerous and led to the cessation of navigation in the north-western part of the Black Sea, the functioning of which is vital for global food security.

A significant number of seafarers training centers, located in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine in the Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) cannot perform their functions while training in other seafarer training centers in Ukraine is significantly limited.

### **I. Flag state**

In view of the above and taking into account the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and with the aim to support the global shipping and to provide it with highly qualified personnel, in cases when inspectors of recognized organizations, auditors and/or flag state inspectors are unable to conduct routine surveys, audit or inspections due to the Russian military aggression against Ukraine and COVID-imposed restrictions, the State Service for Maritime, Inland Waterway Transport and Shipping 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 the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2020 or later and cannot be renewed due to exceptional circumstances resulting from the Russian armed invasion of Ukraine and COVID-19 outbreak, are now extended until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 from the date of expiry in case the following requirements are met:

- 1) Flag State of the vessel recognizes such an extension;
- 2) 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.

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 the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2021 or later and cannot be renewed due to exceptional circumstances resulting from Russian armed invasion of Ukraine and COVID-19 outbreak, are now extended until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 or one contract, whichever is later, 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 months in total during the preceding six months 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.

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 are 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 the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2020 and couldn't be renewed due to the exceptional circumstances resulting from the Russian armed invasion of Ukraine and

the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak is now extended until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2023 from the date of expiry.

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

**IV. Extension of Documents of Maritime Pilots and Pilot Operators.**  
Extension of documents is carried out in accordance with national legislation.

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