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Circular Letter No.4237/Add.21  
10 June 2021

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 10 June 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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துறைமுகங்கள் மற்றும் கப்பல்துறை அமைச்சு

(வணிகக் கப்பற்றுறைச் செயலகம்)

MINISTRY OF PORTS & SHIPPING

(Merchant Shipping Secretariat)

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My No.

எனது இலக்கம்

MSS/DG/7/414

ඔබේ අංකය

Your No.

உமது இலக்கம்

දිනය

Date

திகதி

10.06.2021

Secretary General

International Maritime Organization

Dear Secretary General

**Re: General information on further steps adopted by the Government of Sri Lanka in order to extend the certificates of seafarers in the view of ongoing COVID – 19 pandemic**

In view of the current uncertainty that have been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the country and considering the difficulties encountered by the seafarers, staff of the nautical institutes, crewing agents and ship owners, the Merchant Shipping Secretariat as the Maritime Administration of Sri Lanka has revised the attached further steps which 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

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### **MSN 02/2021**

07<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**This notice supersedes MSN 07/2020 – Revised issued on 03<sup>rd</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 (SRPS Providers; and**

**All other Concerned Parties**

### **Procedure for Extension/Revalidation and Issuance of Certification for Seafarers**

Whereas the onset of COVID-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka, the Merchant Shipping Secretariat (MSS) has taken several precautionary measures to protect and safeguard seafarers as well as associated people in the nautical institutes. Accordingly, Seafarers STCW certificates including medical certificates and other associated endorsements shall be extended/revalidated as follows.

There is no application required to be made for the aforementioned extension/revalidation of certification.

Notwithstanding the above, whenever the revalidation of their expired certificate is to be carried out, the normal processes/fees will be applicable and new validity date will be for a period of five years from the original date of expiry of the certificates.

However, all seafarers are advised to revalidate their National Continue 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) certificates well in advance in the view of ongoing COVID -19 pandemic.



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

- i. This applies to all Seafarers who are both Onboard of Ashore at the time of the expiry of their certificates
- ii. 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 MSS which have expired or are expiring between **31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021** will be extended till **31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**.
- iii. Certificates of Recognition (Endorsement attesting the recognition of national certificates of competency) and applications for issuing COR which are expiring till which have expired or are expiring between **31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021** will remain valid for a maximum period up to **31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**, or earlier date as provided by a similar extension issued by the competent Authority of the Country which issued the certificates of competency.

### Certificates Revalidation Process

Any Seafarers who were unable to revalidate their certificates due to unavailability of trainings and assessments during the COVID -19 pandemic, even where the COP and COC have expired or expiring with the period **01<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022**, the original certificate(s) will be endorsed or a letter indicating the revalidation of certificate will be issued to the qualified applicants for a period of eighteen months (18) from the date of expiry indicated on the applicable certificate(s).

### Medical certificates issued under MLC.

- 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 MSN 07 - REVISED shall be submitted to the MSS with a copy of the existing medical certificate.

Issued on 07<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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