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

Circular Letter No.4288  
11 May 2020

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 7 May 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

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## TANZANIA HIGH COMMISSION



Ref. No. TZL/T.150/2/VOL.16/46

The High Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Court of St. James's presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organization and has the honour to forward to you a letter from the Minister for Works, Transport and Communication of the United Republic of Tanzania for circulation to all its Member States.

The High Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Maritime Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

London 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

The Secretary-General  
International Maritime Organisation  
4 Albert Embankments  
London  
SE1 7SR



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION**

Telephone :+255 26 2322703, 2322702

Telfax : +255 26 2322704

Email: km@uchukuzi.go.tz

Website: www.mwtc.go.tz



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

In Reply Please Quote:

**Ref. No: CJA. 136/474/01/47**

**20<sup>th</sup> April, 2020**

Secretary General,  
His Excellency Kitack Lim,  
International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment London Se1 7sr  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210  
LONDON,  
**UNITED KINGDOM.**

**SUBJECT: CORONAVIRUS (COVID -19) GUIDANCE RELATING TO  
DOCUMENTATION AND CERTIFICATION OF SEAFARERS**

Reference is made to the IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5 dated 17 March 2020 on the subject above.

On behalf of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication of the United Republic of Tanzania (URT), I have the honor to present my compliments to Your Excellency Mr. Kitack Lim and to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and wish to address the above mentioned subject matter.

With respect to the coronavirus pandemic and measures introduced by the URT and around the world to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), we wish to inform IMO that the validity of all seafarers documents and certificates issued or endorsed by URT and held by seafarers currently serving on board the ships worldwide, pursuant to the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, expiring before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 are deemed to be extended for a period of not more than three (3) months from the date of their expiry.

Any clarification or further information on documents and certificates issued by the URT under the STCW 1978 Convention, as amended, to seafarers currently on board, may be obtained through these emails: [info@tasac.go.tz](mailto:info@tasac.go.tz) or [dg@tasac.go.tz](mailto:dg@tasac.go.tz).

With great honor, we kindly request you, the IMO Secretary General to circulate this information to all member States of the IMO for their guidance and reference.

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

A handwritten signature in green ink, consisting of a horizontal line with a vertical stroke crossing it, and the letters 'mwab' written in cursive at the end of the horizontal line.

Eng. Isack Aloyce Kamwelwe (MP),  
**MINISTER FOR WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION**





THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION  
**TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION**  
**TASAC**



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**MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE**  
**MSN 2420**

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

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

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**1.0 Introduction:**

- 1.1 Due to the danger created by 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. In view of this action, seafarers both onboard and ashore have no opportunity to attend refresher training leading to the revalidation of their certificates upon their expiration.
- 1.2 In light of coronavirus pandemic, on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 the International Maritime Organization issued Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5 encouraging administration to take pragmatic and practical approach with regard to the extension of validity of documents and certificates of seafarers issued under the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.
- 1.3 Pursuant to Section 51 of the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 6) Act 2019, the Registrar shall take appropriate steps to advise and communicate to the seafaring community and the public of any developing or existing situations which may adversely affect maritime safety, security and prevention of marine pollution.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION  
**TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION**  
**TASAC**



**2.0 Guidance:**

- 2.1 Certificates of competency and Certificates of proficiency which will expire before 1st July 2020 are 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 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2020 are accepted with a general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) months;
- 2.3 Continuous Discharge Certificates (CDC) which will expire before 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2020 are accepted with a general extended validity for a period of 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 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2020 are accepted with a general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) months; and
- 2.5 The individual seafarers will not be required to submit an application for extension of validity of a particular certificate or document.

**3.0 For Inquiries contact:**

Registrar  
Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC)  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor PPF Tower, Ohio Street/ Garden Avenue  
P. O. Box 989  
Dar es Salaam  
TANZANIA  
Tel: +255 22 2127314  
Fax: +255 22 2127313  
Email: [dg@tasac.go.tz](mailto:dg@tasac.go.tz), [info@tasac.go.tz](mailto:info@tasac.go.tz), [website: www.tasac.go.t](http://www.tasac.go.tz)



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL MAJOR AND MINOR PORTS FOR DEALING WITH NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

1. The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic across large number of nations is an unprecedented situation in recent times. To slow the spread of the disease and mitigate its impacts, travel advisories have been issued by many jurisdictions including the United Republic of Tanzania (URT). However, shipping services are required to continue to be operational so that vital goods and essential commodities like fuel, medical supplies, food grains etc., are delivered and to ensure that the economic activity of the nation is not disrupted. At all time during the COVID-19 pandemic there will be no room compromise the safety of life, property and protection of the environment and therefore the following shall be complied with by all stakeholders till further orders.
  2. All vessels, the Master of a vessel, before arrival at its first port of call in URT, shall ascertain the state of health of each person on board the vessel and submit the Maritime Declaration of Health to the related health authorities of the port and to the port authorities of which the ship has call in.
  3. The format of the Maritime Declaration of Health shall be as per Annex 8 of the International Health Regulations 2005, issued by World Health Organization which has also been adopted by International Maritime Organization and implemented by the FAL Convention at section A (2.1). Copy of the model Maritime Declaration of Health is enclosed.
  4. The Maritime Declaration of Health shall be forwarded at least 72 hours prior to arrival of the vessel at the port. If the voyage duration from last port of departure is less than 72 hours, the Maritime Declaration of Health shall be informed to the port immediately on departure from the port. In addition, the information required by the local health authorities of the port like temperature chart, individual health declaration etc. shall also be provided by the Master as per the directives of the local health authorities of the port.
  5. If the Master of the vessel ascertains that a person on board the vessel is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, the same shall be explicitly mentioned in the Maritime Declaration of Health being forwarded to the health authorities and to the port.
  6. All agents of the vessel shall ensure that the information regarding possible prosecution for incorrect declaration is clearly informed to the vessel before its arrival at URT ports, including incorrect information in the Maritime Declaration of Health.
  7. In case of any suspected person on board the vessel, the Master shall ensure that the suspected person is isolated in the suitable location on the vessel. All other persons who may have come in contact with the suspected person shall also be isolated at appropriate locations as decided by the Master. The Master shall also ensure that all instructions issued by the Ministry of Health
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Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDEC) Tanzania at the port of call, as well as the guidance issued on dealing with COVID-19 matters by World Health Organization (WHO), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other applicable trade bodies are complied with at all times.

8. Vessels having persons suspected of COVID-19 will necessarily be required to be monitored by the health authorities and put in quarantine, if necessary. Samples from the suspected person will be taken and tested as per the instructions of the health authorities. If the samples are tested positive, the vessel will remain in quarantine and the infected person(s) will be dealt with as per the procedures laid down by MoHCDEC, Govt. of URT. Vessels with infected person shall also be sanitized as per the extant protocols for dealing with COVID-19 pandemic.
9. In case of medical emergency, the health authorities shall supervise transport of the patient to the designated hospital as per the procedures laid down by MoHCDEC, Govt. of URT.
10. In the unfortunate incident for a vessel to deal with deceased person suspected of having COVID-19, the guidelines on dead body management issued by MoHCDEC, Govt. of URT will apply.
11. Stoppages of a vessel at any port of infected countries only for bunkering purposes shall not be counted for the calculation of 14 days from port of departure.
12. Pilot shall normally not be assigned to any vessel unless pratique is granted to the vessel. Prior boarding the vessel, the master of the vessel shall reconfirm to the pilot that all persons on board the vessel are healthy and there are no suspected cases of persons infected by COVID-19 on board the vessel. The Master of the vessel shall also ensure that all the areas through which the pilot is likely to pass are appropriately disinfected and sanitized as per the required protocol and shall further confirm about the same to the pilot before the pilot boards the vessel.
13. All ships personnel who are likely to interact with the pilot should be wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). In addition, the bridge team shall be wearing appropriate PPE at all times while the pilot is on the vessel. Pilot shall also be wearing appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).
14. Personnel who may be required to board a ship such as ship agents, clearing and forwarding agents, customs and immigration authorities shall always be aware of the pandemic and have appropriate PPE while on board a ship.
15. There is no any restriction to be imposed on sign on and sign off of the URT seafarers in ports of URT.

ANNEX 8

IMO-MODEL OF MARITIME DECLARATION OF HEALTH

To be completed and submitted to the competent authorities by the Masters of ships arriving from foreign ports. Submitted at the port of ..... Date ..... Name of ship or inland navigation vessel ..... Registration/IMO No ..... arriving from ..... sailing to ..... (Nationality)(Flag of vessel) ..... Master's name ..... Gross tonnage (ship) ..... Tonnage (inland navigation vessel) ..... Valid Sanitation Control Exemption/Control Certificate carried on board? Yes ..... No ..... Issued at ..... date ..... Re-inspection required? Yes ..... No ..... Has ship/vessel visited an affected area identified by the World Health Organization? Yes ..... No ..... Port and date of visit ..... List ports of call from commencement of voyage with dates of departure, or within past thirty days, whichever is shorter:

..... Upon request of the competent authority at the port of arrival, list crew members, passengers or other persons who have joined ship/vessel since international voyage began or within past thirty days, whichever is shorter, including all ports/countries visited in this period (add additional names to the attached schedule): (1) Name ..... joined from: (1) ..... (2) ..... (3) ..... (2) Name ..... joined from: (1) ..... (2) ..... (3) ..... (3) Name ..... joined from: (1) ..... (2) ..... (3) ..... Number of crew members on board ..... Number of passengers on board .....

Health questions:

(1) Has any person died on board during the voyage otherwise than as a result of accident? Yes .... No ..... If yes, state particulars in attached schedule. Total no. of deaths .....

(2) Is there on board or has there been during the international voyage any case of disease which you suspect to be of an infectious nature? Yes..... No..... If yes, state particulars in attached schedule.

(3) Has the total number of ill passengers during the voyage been greater than normal/expected? Yes .... No ..... How many ill persons? .....

(4) Is there any ill person on board now? Yes ..... No ..... If yes, state particulars in attached schedule.

(5) Was a medical practitioner consulted? Yes ..... No ..... If yes, state particulars of medical treatment or advice provided in attached schedule.

(6) Are you aware of any condition on board which may lead to infection or spread of disease? Yes ..... No ..... If yes, state particulars in attached schedule.

(7) Has any sanitary measure (e.g. quarantine, isolation, disinfection or decontamination) been applied on board? Yes ..... No ..... If yes, specify type, place and date .....

(8) Have any stowaways been found on board? Yes ..... No ..... If yes, where did they join the ship (if known)? .....

(9) Is there a sick animal or pet on board? Yes ..... No ..... Note: In the absence of a surgeon, the master should regard the following symptoms as grounds for suspecting the existence of a disease of an infectious nature:

- a) fever, persisting for several days or accompanied by (i) prostration; (ii) decreased consciousness; (iii) glandular swelling; (iv) jaundice; (v) cough or shortness of breath; (vi) unusual bleeding; or (vii) paralysis.
- b) with or without fever: (i) any acute skin rash or eruption; (ii) severe vomiting (other than sea sickness); (iii) severe diarrhea; or (iv) recurrent convulsions.



I hereby declare that the particulars and answers to the questions given in this Declaration of Health (including the schedule) are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed .....

Master  
Ship's Surgeon (if carried)

Countersigned .....

Date

ATTACHMENT TO MODEL OF MARITIME DECLARATION OF HEALTH

Name	Class of rating	Age	Sex	Nationality	Port, date, joined ship/vessel	Nature of illness	Date of onset of symptoms	Reported to a port medical officer?	Disposal of case <sup>1</sup>	Drugs, medicines or other treatment given to patient	Comments

<sup>1</sup> State: (1) whether the person recovered, is still ill or died; and (2) whether the person is still on board, was evacuated (including the name of the port or airport), or was buried at sea.