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Circular Letter No.4231/Add.17
27 January 2021

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Italy**

The Government of the Republic of Italy has sent the attached communication, dated 26 January 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



Ministry of Health

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF PREVENTION
PEC: dgprev@postacert.sanita.it

Rome, 26 January 2021

HE Mr. Kitack Lim
Secretary General of
International Maritime Organization

SUBJECT: Measures to Address Covid-19 in Italy: extension of the validity of the two-year medical examination certificate for seafarers issued in compliance with STCW '78 Convention.

Dear Secretary-General Lim,

The Italian Ministry of Health – General Directorate of Prevention, presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organization and, with reference to the periodic medical examination normally taking place every two years, is honored to inform on the following.

With a dedicated Italian Ministry of Health – General Directorate of Prevention letter, the validity of the two-year examination certificate for seafarers, issued in compliance with STCW '78 Convention, is extended to 90 days following the declaration of the end of the COVID-19 state of emergency, which in Italy is currently set by legislative decree no. 2 of 14 January 2021 as 30 April 2021.

Given the current severity of the COVID-19 pandemic and the outstanding challenges of sustaining non-essential activities of healthcare services, the urgent need to expand the length of the biannual medical review of seafarers has arisen. In this context, the validity of the Italian Seafarers' two-years examination certificate is extended to 90 days after the conclusion of the pandemic, in accordance with the Italian legislation.

We would therefore like to ask the Secretariat to kindly have this information regarding the extension of the validity of biennial medical examination communicated to all Member States of the IMO. Your valuable attention to this matter is very much appreciated.

The Italian Ministry of Health avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Ulrico Angeloni

Deputy Director Office 3
Coordination of Port, Airport and Border Health Offices IHR Contact Point
Seafarers' and air crew health care services – Coordination office
Directorate General for Health Prevention
Italian Ministry of Health