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Circular Letter No.4241/Add.3  
7 July 2020

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

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

The Government of the Hellenic Republic has sent the attached communication, dated 7 July 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY  
HELLENIC COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS

Piraeus, 07 July 2020  
Ref no. 2020.0/ 42907 /2020

## NOTICE

**SUBJECT: “COVID-19 - UPDATE OF THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE HELLENIC MARITIME ADMINISTRATION WITH A VIEW TO FACILITATE AND PROGRESSIVELY RESTORE MARITIME TRANSPORT SERVICES AND CONNECTIVITY”**

### 1. General

During the outbreak of COVID-19, the Hellenic Maritime Administration pursued the maintenance of the smooth operation of the international maritime transport while securing high standards for the protection of public health. In the internal field, the core objective has been to maintain essential maritime cabotage services to the islands, which is now and during the summer season almost restored, with the necessary adjustments to secure public health.

By this Notice the Hellenic Maritime Administration wishes to update the shipping community of the state of play and the measures adopted aiming to the progressive restoration of maritime transport services and connectivity. The measures take into consideration the challenges emerging from COVID 19 as well as the prescriptions of the WHO and the National Organization of Public Health, the European Commission’s communications and guidelines<sup>1</sup> and the relevant IMO Circulars and initiatives.

Updated information as regards circulars, decisions and health guidance provided by the international and national institutions are available online at the [Hellenic Coast Guard website](#).

### 2. General Restrictions of Ships Operations

Taking into consideration the epidemiological facts of COVID 19, restrictions are maintained in respect of:

- (a) Movement of passengers by ships to and from Greece to/from Albania & Turkey **until 15.07.2020**.  
**The measure does not affect trade operations.**
- (b) Sailing in/off ports within the Greek territory for cruise ships, **until 15.07.2020**<sup>2</sup>.
- (c) Entry at Greek ports of private and professional recreational yachts & daily tour cruise ships with carrying capacity over fifty (50) passengers, **until 17.07.2020**. Private and professional recreational yachts and daily tour cruise ships that are already within Greece **operate normally** with reduced

<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/covid-19-guidelines-progressive-restoration-transport-services-and-connectivity\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/covid-19-guidelines-progressive-restoration-transport-services-and-connectivity_en)

<sup>2</sup> Exemptions are provided to cruise ships which call at: (i) ports of continental Greece provided that they carry only their crew (not passengers), without permitting shore leave and (ii) repair yards



capacity and under certain measures (Preventive guidance obligations can be found in [Gov. Gazette B 2662/30.06.2020 and B 2663/30.06.2020](#) )

(d) Entry into the country of non-EU nationals, including by air, sea, rail and road, **until 15.07.2020**. Citizens of the following states are excluded: Algeria, Australia, Georgia, Canada, Japan, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, People's Republic of China, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay. **The measure does not affect trade operations**, EU citizens<sup>3</sup>, diplomatic missions' representatives, third country nationals who are permanent residents at an EU country **and essential workers (i.e. track drivers, seafarers e.tc.)**.

All restrictions relating to the **transportation of passengers by ships** (including RO-ROs, Ro-PAXs, ferries) operating from the mainland Greece to the islands and between the islands of the country **have been lifted** (passenger maritime cabotage), under the conditions below (para 3).

### **3. Conditions for Performing Passenger Maritime Cabotage & International Voyages**

Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the Greek government has determined how the country will welcome travelers, carry out the necessary diagnostic screening and keep everyone safe throughout the summer season. The Passenger Locator Form (PLF) was introduced as a key element in such planning. **All travelers should complete their PLF at least 48 hours before entering the country**, providing detailed information on their point of departure, the duration of previous stays in other countries, and the address of their stay while in Greece. More information can be found [here](#).

Following the Hellenic Coast Guard Notice dated 19.05.2020 the following amendments have taken place in relation with the maximum number of passengers that apply to passenger and Ro-Ro ferries that operate from the mainland of Greece to the islands and between the islands of the country (passenger maritime cabotage), which has been raised to **60% of the ship's total passenger capacity**, as specified in the ship's safety certificate **or 65%** if cabins are available (from 50% and 55% respectively). The relevant ministerial decision (gov. gazette 2601 B') can be found [here](#). The pre-boarding questionnaire to be filled by cabotage passengers can be found [here](#).

General Preventive Guidance obligations can be found [here](#).

### **4. Extension Of Validity Of Seafarers' Certificates And Endorsements**

Following the Hellenic Coast Guard Circulars dated 27.03.2020 and 01.04.2020 **a general extension of validity until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2020** has been granted for the Hellenic Certificates of Competency (CoCS) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoPS) of seafarers issued by the Hellenic administration according to the international convention STCW '78, as amended, and have expired or are due to expire until the abovementioned date. Equivalent extension is granted also for the endorsements of attestation issued by a foreign authority, provided that the CoCS and the CoPS are in effect until the abovementioned date. The aforementioned extensions are in effect without requiring any additional entry on the certificate or submission of relevant request or other documents. All Greek Flagged vessels shall carry on board the present document in order to be presented to any third party, e.g. Port State Control

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<sup>3</sup> Flights from United Kingdom and Sweden are restricted **until 15.07.2020**



Officers and other stakeholders, as necessary. Any relevant queries to be submitted to the Seafarers' Training Directorate (e-mail [dekn@hcg.gr](mailto:dekn@hcg.gr), tel: +30 213 137 1439, +30 210 452 1032 - 1082).

### **5. Safety of Navigation – Port State Control Issues**

VTS operation has not been affected. The SSN NCA 24/7 is operating normally.

National contact point concerning Port State Control Inspections carried out in Greece according to Paris MoU and EU Directive 2009/16 is the Unit D of Safety Navigation Directorate ([dan.d@hcg.gr](mailto:dan.d@hcg.gr), tel. +30 213 137 1189-1513).

PSC inspections are carried out based on the judgement whether the conduct of the inspection would create a risk to the safety of the inspectors, the ship, its crew or the port and taking into consideration the relevant instructions from the Health Authorities; For cases of suspicion or reported COVID-19 incident, the possibilities under Art 8(2)(a) of Directive 2009/16 have been recalled to PSC inspectors.

**HELLENIC COAST GUARD  
1<sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY COMMANDANT**

**VICE ADMIRAL (HCG)  
KONSTANTINOS POULIS**

