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Circular Letter No.4258  
8 April 2020

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

Subject: **Communication from the Kingdom of Thailand**

The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand has sent the attached communication, dated 7 April 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

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**URGENT**

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Ministry of Transport  
Ratchadamnoen Nok Avenue  
Bangkok 10100, THAILAND

7 April B.E. 2563 (2020)

Dear Sir,

Reference is made to IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.1, No. 4204/Add.2, No. 4204/Add.3, No. 4204/Add.4, and No. 4204/Add.5 concerning coronavirus (COVID-19).

In this regard, I would like to inform you of urgent measures having been issued by the Marine Department on the response to COVID-19 outbreak as follows:

1. The Notification on "Extension of statutory supervision and issuance/endorsement of statutory certificates due to COVID-19 for international voyage vessels flying Thai Flag"
2. The Announcement No. 56/2563 (A.D. 2020) on "Facilitating people and protect their interests or to prevent them from violating laws according to the Declaration of an Emergency Situation in all areas of the Kingdom of Thailand"

I would be grateful if you could circulate the above-mentioned Notification and the Announcement as enclosed herewith to the attention of all IMO Member States and other organizations concerned.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Mr. Peraphon Thawornsupacharoen)  
Deputy Permanent Secretary

Mr. Kitack Lim  
Secretary General  
International Maritime Organization (IMO)  
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No. 0322/ 1467

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2 April B.E. 2563 (A.D. 2020)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Notification : “Extension of statutory supervision and issuance/endorsement of statutory certificates due to COVID-19 for international voyage vessels flying Thai Flag”

References :  
1. IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.1  
2. IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.2  
3. IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.3  
4. IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.4  
5. TOKYO-MOU Guidance for dealing with impact of the outbreak of the COVID-19

Due to the pandemic of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Marine Department has received inquiries from shipowners and Recognized Organizations (RO) regarding the postponement of surveys and audits that in most cases can not be conducted because surveyors are unable to attend the ships due to travel restrictions, quarantines, unavailable facilities and unforeseen circumstances.

IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.1 addresses COVID-19’s impacts on the shipping industry, including implementation and enforcement of mandatory IMO requirements and to provide encouragement for flexibility on co-operation and a pragmatic approach between flag and port states. In accordance with Tokyo MOU Guidance on impact of COVID-19 issued on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020, member Authorities of the Tokyo MOU have agreed to adopt guidance for dealing with the circumstances such as extending periods of service onboard of seafarers, delaying periods for surveys, inspections and audits in a pragmatic and harmonized approach.

/As a force ...

*As a force majeure situation*, Marine Department, therefore has instructed that:

1. All certificates and supplementary documents, due date before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, issued by Marine Department have been granted a 3-month extension. The extension may also apply to certificates or supplementary documents granted by service providers to the vessels.

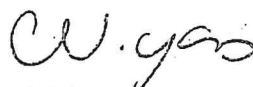
2. In addition to 1 for Thai flagged vessels, supervised by recognized organization (RO.), the owners shall ensure that recommendations from ROs are to be carried out.

3. All above references shall be printed and kept on board, in particular, ship operators shall follow IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.4 "Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for ship operators for the protection of the health of seafarers" and prepare necessary measures to the crews.

4. When the Covid-19 situation is improved, the owners shall resume IMO requirements on statutory ship certificates, surveys, inspections and audits, based on mandatory schedule as soon as possible.

5. As a pragmatic approach, Thailand PSCOs will conduct the task in accordance with TOKYO-MOU Guidance for dealing with impact of the outbreak of the COVID-19. Ship operators/companies concerned should provide the letters from Flag State or RO related to the matter of dispensation or exemption.

Announced on 2 April 2020



(Mr. Withaya Yamoung)

Director General

Marine Department



(Unofficial Translation 30/3/20)

## Marine Department Announcement

No. 56 / 2563 (A.D. 2020)

Subject: Facilitating people and protect their interests or to prevent them from violating laws according to the Declaration of an Emergency Situation in all areas of the Kingdom of Thailand

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Referring to the Declaration of an Emergency Situation in all areas of the Kingdom of Thailand on 25 March B.E. 2563 (2020) and section 9 of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations B.E. 2548 (2005), by which section 12 of the regulation issued under Article 9 of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations B.E.2548 (2005) (No. 1) dated 25 March 2020, this is to facilitate people and protect their interests or to prevent them from violating laws which have deadlines to perform. It also should facilitate to the officers who are on service such as arrange overlapping shifts for working hours and lunch breaks and working outside of the usual office. Additional facilitation shall be provided to the people, for example the holding of teleconferences, the provision of services through digital communication, the waiver of the requirement of physical presence, or exemption, extension, suspension or reduction of fees as prescribed under the provisions of the law.

Due to the present situation of the outbreak of the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), which is a pandemic that has just appeared but is rapidly spreading including Thailand. Presently, there is no vaccine nor effective medication. Therefore, the Thai government has correspondingly applied the most advanced measures, use more stringent measures, so to facilitate citizens and prevent the public from losing benefits or violating laws according to section 12 of the regulation issued under section 9 of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations B.E.2548 (2005) (No. 1) dated 25 March 2020. Then the Director General of the Marine Department issues the Marine Department's announcement for facilitating people and protect their interests or to prevent them from violating laws under the Declaration of an Emergency Situation in all areas of the Kingdom of Thailand as follows:

**Clause 1.** To extend the period or the duration of the certificates, license, seafarer's certificates, crew agreement, and other significant documents, from the expiration date or validation date until the Declaration of an Emergency Situation in all areas of the Kingdom of Thailand will be canceled, as follows.

- (1) Certificate of survey for ship licenses, certificate of survey for ship registration, certificates issued under the Navigation in Thai Waters Acts B.E. 2456 (1913) as amended.
- (2) Ship license issued under the Navigation in Thai Waters Acts (No. 6) B.E. 2456 (1913) as amended.
- (3) All type of seafarers' certificates issued under the Navigation in Thai Waters Acts B.E. 2456 (1913) as amended.
- (4) Work permit Certificates issued under the Navigation in Thai Waters Acts B.E. 2456 (1913) as amended.
- (5) Crew agreement issued under the Navigation in Thai Waters Acts B.E. 2456 (1913) as amended.
- (6) All type of Seaman books issued under the Navigation in Thai Waters Acts B.E. 2456 (1913) as amended.

**Clause 2.** All shipowners or ship operators who have been granted the extension of the period or the duration of the ship certificates, ship license and certificates under clause 1(1) and (2) shall maintain the ship in a safe and suitable condition for using at all times.

This announcement shall be effective from 26<sup>th</sup> March B.E. 2563 (2020)

Announce on 26<sup>th</sup> March B.E. 2563 (2020)

(Mr. Withaya Yamoung)  
Director General  
Marine Department