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

Circular Letter No.4260/Add.2
4 February 2021

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

Subject: **Communication from the Republic of Finland**

The Government of the Republic of Finland has sent the attached communication, dated 4 February 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



EMBASSY OF FINLAND

ANNEX

Circular Letter No.4260/Add.2
Annex, page 1

PC0TQ3TZ-9

VERBAL NOTE

The Embassy of Finland presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organization and has the honour to present a letter from Mr Mikael Nyberg Finland's Alternate Permanent Representative to the IMO, regarding the extension of the validity of endorsements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, designation of seafarers as key workers and Finland's national focal point on crew change and repatriation of seafarers.

The Embassy of Finland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Maritime Organization the assurance of its highest consideration.

4th February 2021



Encl. Letter from Mr Mikael Nyberg, Alternate Permanent Representative to the IMO

To: His Excellency Kitack Lim
Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
SE1 7SR, London

4.2.2020

To: His Excellency Kitack Lim
Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
SE1 7SR London
United Kingdom

Subject: Extension of the validity of endorsements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, designation of seafarers as key workers and Finland's National Focal Point on Crew Change and Repatriation of Seafarers

Dear Secretary-General,

With reference to the Circular Letters 4260 and 4260/Add.1 regarding extension of the validity of maritime personnel certificates during COVID-19 outbreak, I would like to further update you on the measures taken by Finland.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, appropriate and necessary changes have been made in current legislation on a temporary basis. In addition to the measures referred to Finland's response dated 10 June 2020, the Finnish Parliament has decided to accept an amendment regarding the validity of seafarers' endorsements. The amendment entered into force 1 January 2021.

By this amendment, the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency may temporarily grant extensions on the validity of seafarers' endorsements. The validity of the endorsements may be extended in accordance with the period of validity of the underlying qualifications. However, the extensions may only be valid until the end of June 2021 at the latest, and the total period of validity of the endorsement should not exceed five years.

Finland also plans to make further extensions on seafarers' Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency.

In addition, I would like to inform you that on 16 March 2020 Finland designated professional seafarers and marine personnel, regardless of their nationality, as 'key workers' providing an essential service. With reference to the IMO MSC resolution MSC.473(ES.2) and Circular Letter MSC.7/Circ.1/Rev.19, please find attached the contact information of Finland's National Focal Point on Crew Change and Repatriation of Seafarers.

I would appreciate if you could circulate the measures developed by Finland to the attention of the Member States and any interested parties.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mikael Nyberg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mikael Nyberg
Alternate Permanent Representative of Finland to the IMO

Attachment

National Focal Point on Crew Change and Repatriation of Seafarers / Finland

Sini Wirén, Director of Unit
Basic Services Unit, Services Department
Ministry of Transport and Communications
PO Box 31, FI-00023 Government
sini.wiren@lvm.fi
+358 295 342 532

Nb! In case of urgent matters related to practical crew change challenges, please contact Helsinki Border Control Department, tel. +358 295 426 600.
