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Circular Letter No.4264  
14 April 2020

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

Subject: **Communication from Jamaica**

The Government of Jamaica has sent the attached communication, dated 14 April 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

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## The Maritime Authority of Jamaica

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, The Office Centre Building, 12 Ocean Boulevard

Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.

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14 April 2020

H.E Mr Kitack LIM  
Secretary General  
International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE 1 7SR

Dear Secretary-General,

### VALIDITY OF JAMAICAN CERTIFICATES CONSEQUENT TO COVID 19 PANDEMIC

This serves to inform the International Maritime Organization (IMO) about the measures being undertaken by the Maritime Authority of Jamaica concerning certification processes and certificate extensions, in light of the circumstances surrounding the Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19). The document should be used as guidance to assist shipowners, operators, seafarers and recognized organizations, that are having challenges in conducting ship operations.

The attached document outlines how Jamaica will be treating with the status and validity of certificates concerning vessel registration and surveys, registration documentation, seafarers documentation, seafarers repatriation and seafarers medical fitness certificates.

The IMO is requested to circulate the attached documents to Contracting Governments.

Please accept the assurances of my highest considerations.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Brady  
Rear Admiral (Ret'd)  
Director General

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### **The validity of Jamaican Certificates - ICS Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Note:** The Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) notes the continued increase in the reach and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and it's the debilitating impact on the global community. During this period, the Jamaica Ship Registry (JSR) will continue to remain functional with a small Team providing service in office. Several persons also continue to work from home to provide the level of service to which we are committed.

Certificates of Registry and Radio Licences for a number of vessels, as well as endorsements and record books for Seafarers, which may become due for renewal within the next three (3) months, will retain their validity until June 30, 2020.

Certificates that are now in process, will be dispatched in the normal manner.

#### **Vessel Surveys and Inspections**

Where flag State surveys and/or inspections become due on vessels and it is difficult for attendance by a Flag or RO surveyor, a grace period of up to three (3) months may be considered. This allowance will be done on a case-by-case basis. Owners and managers are responsible to submit such a request through the associated RO.

#### **Registration Documentation**

A copy of this Circular along with the original certificate of registry shall have the effect of extending the certificate currently onboard, for a term of up to three (3) months until June 30, 2020.

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### **Seafarer Repatriation**

The MAJ appreciates that Seafarers may wish to be repatriated during this time. Where this is feasible, the MAJ encourages all personnel to ensure they are well protected and to strictly adhere to the guidelines given by WHO (see Circular No. 20-03-01) to ensure their safety as they make their way home. It is to be noted that at this time, many countries have closed their borders to non-nationals, and subject persons to a period of quarantine upon arrival where ports remain open. Both Master and Crew should, therefore, be advised to verify clear transit along the route of repatriation before any attempt is made to travel. In cases of emergency, the Registrar of Seafarers should be contacted at [maj@jamaicaships.com](mailto:maj@jamaicaships.com) (876 854 4982) with full details on the nature of the emergency, the Seafarer involved, the vessel as well as the current, and destination ports.

Where repatriation is not a feasible option, it may cause some seafarers employed to work on Jamaican vessels to exceed the service period as entered in their seafarer employment agreements (SEA).

Upon mutual agreement between the owner and seafarer, the MAJ allows an SEA to be extended beyond the maximum period of eleven (11) months or its original expiration date. The extension shall not exceed past June 30, 2020, or to the first safe port of disembarkation.

### **Seafarers' Documentation**

The MAJ advises all Seafarers whose certification will expire during this period, that they will remain valid until June 30, 2020. A copy of this Circular along with the original Seafarer's Documentation shall have the effect of extending the document, for a term of up to three (3) months until June 30, 2020.

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**Medical Fitness Certificates**

The Jamaica Shipping Act permits a seafarer whose medical fitness certificate expires during a voyage in a location where it is not possible to obtain a medical fitness certificate accepted for working on a Jamaican ship, to continue working for up to three (3) months. If in exceptional circumstances this period is likely to be exceeded, the owner or manager should contact the MAJ for advice.

**General Queries:**                    [maj@jamaicaships.com](mailto:maj@jamaicaships.com)

1 876 967 1060

**Technical:**                            [safety@jamaicaships.com](mailto:safety@jamaicaships.com)

1 876 434 0888

**Registration:**                        [registrar@jamaicaships.com](mailto:registrar@jamaicaships.com)

1 876 551 0685

The MAJ encourages all persons to ensure that the necessary measures are always taken to safeguard the personal interests and those of their communities in general, throughout this pandemic.

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March 24, 2020

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