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Circular Letter No.4287/Add 1
19 May 2020

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

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

The Government of the Argentine Republic has sent the attached communication, dated 13 May2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.



*Permanent Representation of the
Argentine Republic to the
International Maritime Organization*

Ref: *National measures regarding
the COVID-19 pandemic*

London, 13 May 2020.

The Representation of the Republic of Argentina to the International Maritime Organization presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization and has the honour to refer to further measures that the Argentine authorities have taken in order to tackle the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please find enclosed a report produced by the relevant Argentine authority whereby it is informed a series of exceptional measures adopted in view of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Representation of the Republic of Argentina to the International Maritime Organization would like to take this opportunity to reiterate to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

Please find enclosed: Spanish and English version of the mentioned report.

SECRETARIAT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION
LONDON

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long tail.



*Ministerio de Seguridad
Prefectura Naval Argentina
Autoridad Marítima*

Nº: 21/20.

Letra: ASIN, HB8.

Buenos Aires, 27 de Abril de 2020

SEÑOR SECRETARIO GENERAL:

Tengo el agrado de dirigirme a Usted, con motivo de las repercusiones que está teniendo el brote repentino y rápido del coronavirus COVID-19 en el sector del transporte marítimo, circunstancia que nos ha obligado a adoptar un conjunto de medidas de carácter excepcional, teniendo en cuenta los retos que plantea la situación.

Atendiendo a la importancia de los esfuerzos que se están realizando a nivel mundial para garantizar la disponibilidad del transporte marítimo y de la gente de mar a fin de que se pueda proseguir la entrega de bienes vitales, incluidos suministros médicos, energía y alimentos, esta Autoridad Marítima, en coordinación con otras entidades públicas y privadas del sector marítimo y portuario nacional, viene dando respuesta a la situación con un repertorio de medidas y protocolos destinados a continuar brindando seguridad a los buques y a la gente de mar, protegiendo el medio ambiente marino y facilitando el comercio marítimo.

Con respecto a los buques de la bandera, se han establecido prórrogas de hasta tres meses para la realización de reconocimientos, inspecciones y auditorías, para la convalidación y/o renovación de los respectivos certificados de seguridad y la prevención de la contaminación, incluyendo los servicios de mantenimiento esenciales del buque y su equipo.

En cuanto a la validez de las titulaciones, refrendos y certificados de aptitud médica de la gente de mar y pescadores, las mismas fueron prorrogadas en su conjunto hasta el próximo 30 de junio.

En lo que respecta a la supervisión por el Estado rector del puerto, se aplica un enfoque pragmático en el contexto de la pandemia mundial, reconociéndose que puede haber una necesidad de permitir cierta flexibilidad ante determinadas circunstancias.

Asimismo, se ha implementado una serie de protocolos sanitarios que incluyen medidas de protección adecuadas contra la COVID-19, destinados a los buques y puertos para garantizar que los tripulantes y pasajeros pueden embarcar y desembarcar, las operaciones de carga y descarga de mercancías y suministros pueden proseguirse y los buques pueden entrar y salir de los astilleros para proceder a efectuar las reparaciones y reconocimientos pertinentes.

Complementariamente, se ha ampliado la oferta de trámites a distancia por medios electrónicos, a fin de mitigar la posibilidad de contagio y su impacto sanitario en los propietarios de buques, armadores, operadores, agentes marítimos, gente de mar, etc., a cuyo repertorio puede accederse a través del sitio web oficial de la Prefectura Naval Argentina (<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/prefectura-naval/emergencia-sanitaria>)

Confiando en la seguridad que la información facilitada en la presente sea difundida a los Estados Miembros y demás partes interesadas, a través de una carta circular, hago propicia la oportunidad para reafirmar una vez más nuestro firme compromiso de apoyo y contribución a los objetivos y misión de esa Organización.




MARIO RUBÉN FARINÓN
PREFECTO GENERAL
PREFECTO NACIONAL NAVAL

AL SEÑOR
SECRETARIO GENERAL
DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN MARÍTIMA INTERNACIONAL
Sr. KITACK LIM
S _____ / _____ D

TRANSLATION

"2020 – YEAR OF GENERAL MANUEL BELGRANO"



*Ministry of Security
Prefectura Naval Argentina
Maritime Authority*

Note No.21/20.
ASIN, HB8.

Buenos Aires, 27 April 2020

SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION
Mr. KITACK LIM

DEAR Mr. KITACK LIM,

I am pleased to address you regarding the impact of the sudden and rapid outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the shipping industry, which has forced us to adopt a series of exceptional measures in view of the challenges posed by this situation.

Considering the importance of the global efforts being made to ensure the availability of shipping and seafarers so that the delivery of vital goods, including medical supplies, energy and food, can continue uninterrupted, this Maritime Authority, in tandem with other public and private entities within the national maritime and port sectors, has been responding to the situation with a repertoire of measures and protocols aimed at continuing to ensure the safety of ships and seafarers, protect the marine environment and facilitate seaborne trade.

With respect to Argentine-flagged ships, extensions of up to three months have been established for the performance of surveys, inspections and audits, for the validation and/or renewal of the respective safety certificates and the prevention of contamination, including essential ship and equipment maintenance.

As regards the validity of certifications, endorsements and medical fitness certificates of seafarers and fishers, it has been extended until 30 June 2020.

Regarding Port State Control, a pragmatic approach has been applied in the context of the world pandemic, acknowledging that it may be necessary to allow some degree of flexibility in certain circumstances.

Additionally, a series of health protocols have been implemented, including adequate protective measures against COVID-19, intended for ships and ports to ensure that crew and passengers can embark and disembark, that loading and unloading operations of goods and supplies can continue without any interruptions and that ships can enter and leave shipyards to carry out the pertinent repairs and surveys.

Furthermore, the offer of remote or distance procedures by electronic means has been expanded, in order to mitigate the possibility of infection and its health impact on ship owners, ship operators, shipping agents, seafarers, etc., which can be accessed through the official website of Prefectura Naval Argentina (<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/prefectura-naval/emergencia-sanitaria>).

With the certainty that the information provided herein will be disseminated to Member States and other relevant stakeholders through a circular letter, I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of our sound commitment to support and contribute towards the aims and mission of your Organization.

[Signed]

Mario Rubén FARINON
Admiral
Commandant of Prefectura Naval Argentina

This is a true translation from Spanish into English.



NATALIA SOLEDAD ALVAREZ
SUBPREFECTO
TRADUCTORA PÚBLICA DE INGLÉS