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Circular Letter No.4290
11 May 2020

To: All IMO Members
Parties to the STCW Convention which are not Members of IMO
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

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

The Government of the Czech Republic has sent the attached communication, dated 8 April 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.



Ministry of Transport

nábřeží Ludvíka Svobody 1222/12
PO BOX 9, 110 15 Praha 1Prague 08. April 2020
Ref: 134/2020-135-NPL/2

**Subject: Measures taken by the Maritime Administration of the Czech Republic
to mitigate effects of COVID-19 on seafarers' employment**

Dear Secretary General,

The Maritime Administration of the Czech Republic presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization and advises that, pursuant to the IMO Circular letter No. 4204/Add.5 has published enclosed circular aimed reducing the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak on the employment of those seafarers who are holding documents issued by this Maritime Administration.

To this end, we would like to request the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization to kindly disseminate the attached information among the member states.

Yours sincerely

Evžen Vydra, Ph.D.
Head of Maritime Administration

Ing. Bc. Evžen Vydra, Ph.D. Digitálně podepsal Ing.
Bc. Evžen Vydra, Ph.D.
Datum: 2020.04.09
10:40:47 +02'00'

H.E. Mr. Kitack Lim,
Secretary General,
International Maritime Organization,
4 Albert Embankment,
London. SE1 7SR
United Kingdom





**Extraordinary measures related to crew documents issued by Maritime Administration
of the Czech Republic in relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

To all Seafarer's holding documents issued by Maritime Administration of the Czech Republic (hereinafter as the Maritime Administration), Ship Managers, Ship Owners and Ship Operators employing seafarers certified by the Maritime Administration and Ship Masters.

Concerned about the disruptions and difficulties the maritime sector is currently facing because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the following temporary measures have been taken by this Maritime Administration based on the Articles Nos. 75 and 77 of the Act No. 61/2000 Coll., On Maritime Navigation, as amended in regards to:

1. Extension of the validity of seafarer STCW documents beyond their expiry date

- 1.1. Seafarers, in possession of a Certificate of Competency (CoC) and/or a Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) which may expire during an extension of their stay on board could apply for extraordinary extension for about 3 month via e-mail addressed to evzen.vydra@mdcr.cz and in copy to ctirad.pacak@mdcr.cz. An official letter "To whom it may concern" will be issued within 1 week and its scan will be returned to the applicant e-mail address to support seafarer delayed at on-board service.
- 1.2. Simultaneously seafarer will be provided via e-mail a form of extension application with instruction how to fill it and what scanned documents to be enclosed. Filled application and supporting documents to be e-mailed to the addresses indicated above. Subject enclosures comply with STCW and national Quality system demands (relative check-list will be provided as well for seafarer's orientation) demands for certificate revalidation, application will be accepted. As passport size photo CZ Maritime Office will accept quality colourful photo emailed. The only a processing fee stamp to be delivered to CZ Maritime Office by seafarer's relative by mail. Completed certificate will be mailed to seafarer's Shipping or Manning Company for delivery to shipmaster, whose duty will be to confirm handling-over of new document to seafarer and destroying of expired on.

2. Seamen's Books (S/B)

Processing of expired or completely filled in S/B will be similar to Certificates as described above. The old one S/B is seafarer's property, so it is not subject to any further processing.

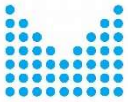
3. Medical Certificates

In view of the exceptional circumstances of force majeure, CZ Maritime Administration agree the seafarer whose medical certificate is about to expire or no longer be valid, to be allowed to keep serving on board for a period of up to 3 months.

4. Documents to support out-crossing Czech border to join the ship

Given the restrictions on cross-border movement, the Maritime Administration draws attention to the forms of the Ministry of Transport and Ministry of the Interior for commuting abroad for workers in international transport, including crews of sea-going vessels. The forms are available in Czech and English versions. The seafarer must fill in his/her personal data, and have the form endorsed by foreign employer (the signature and stamp) and have it with him/her when out-crossing the Czech border travelling to join ship.

These measures are applicable from March 31, 2020 and will remain in force until they are either recalled either amended. This Maritime Administration remains of course at the disposal of all interested parties for any further information.



Certificate for International Transport Workers

It is hereby confirmed that the person

Name and surname:

Birthdate:

Residence:

carries out activities in international transport as *

- a driver of a heavy goods vehicle (HGV)
- a bus driver
- a public transport aircraft crew
- a train driver
- a train crew
- a carriage inspector
- a ship's captain
- a vessel crew member
- a road administration crew
- a driver of a vehicle of up to 9 persons carrying one of the above categories of persons, who is an employee of the same employer and transports them to or from the workplace, and empty journeys connected with such transports

* *Mark with a cross*

for the company/office/organization (Name):

Inon

.....

Stamp and signature of the company/office/organization
