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Circular Letter No.4299
1 June 2020

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

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

The Government of the Republic of Kiribati has sent the attached communication, dated 28 April 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION, TRANSPORT AND
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

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File Ref: 04/01

Date: 28th April 2020

H.E Mr. KITACK LIM

Secretary General
International Maritime Organization
4th Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

Dear **Secretary General**,

Subject: Kiribati measures in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak

In reference to the circular letter Nos. 4204/Add.5, the Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development (the "Administrator") is informing the organization in response to the escalating situation and the already increasing restrictions to travels, adopted worldwide that have created difficulties to the shipping operations.

The Administrator had issued circulars and notice to all International and National parties concerned which sets out the extension of Seafarers' Employment Agreement (SEA) Service Period, Mandatory Certificates of Seafarers and Fishers, Medial Certificates, Ship Statutory Certificates, Surveys, Audits & Inspections due to COVID-19.

Marine Circular No. 50/2020	To	Ship Owners, Managers, Charterers, Masters, and Port Authorities
	Subject	Extension of Statutory Certificates, Surveys, Audits & Inspections due to COVID-19
Marine Circular 53/2020	To	Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, No. Recognized Organizations, Port Authorities, Flag State Inspectors
	Subject	Extension of Statutory Certificates, Surveys, Audits & Inspections due to COVID-19
Marine Notice No. 01/2020	To	Ship Owners, Flag states, Port States, Ship Operators, licensed Pilots, Masters and crews
	Subject	Extension of Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Certificates, Certificates of medical fitness and Fishing Vessel Personnel Certificates for I-Kiribati Seafarers

Please find attached, the above circulars and I would be most grateful if the Secretariat could circulate this information to all IMO Member States and relevant stakeholders.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary General, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully.

Mr Tarataake Teannaki
Secretary



Kiribati Ship Registry

Singapore Operations Office:

10 Anson Road #25-14, International Plaza, Singapore 079903

Tel: +65 6225 0555 Fax: +65 6225 0550 Email: info@kiribaship.com Website: www.kiribaship.com

MARINE CIRCULAR 50/2020

07 April 2020

TO : Ship Owners, Managers, Charterers, Masters, and Port Authorities

SUBJECT : Extension of Seafarers' Employment Agreement (SEA) Service Period & Certificates of Endorsement (COE) Due to COVID-19

PURPOSE

The purpose of this circular is to address the heightened immigration measures and travel restrictions set in place by an increasing number of countries which may result in ship owners experiencing difficulties arranging change of crew when their SEAs expire, as well as difficulties for crew to revalidate their national STCW COC/COP and medical certificates resulting in the expiry of their Kiribati COE whilst still serving on board a Kiribati flagged vessel.

REFERENCES

- 1) Kiribati Marine Circular 49/2020 – Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- 2) Maritime Labour Convention 2006, as amended

APPLICATION

This Marine Circular applies to all crew on board Kiribati flagged vessels.

CONTENT

1) Extension of SEA

- a) International efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19 has led to an increasing number of countries and their port authorities placing immigration restrictions which may result in difficulties for ship owners to arrange change of crew when the SEAs of the crew expire.
- b) To address the issue, the Kiribati Ship Registry wishes to notify all parties concerned that a seafarer's service period may be extended on condition that any such extension is agreed by the seafarer voluntarily in writing and is properly set out in the SEA.

2) Extension of COE

- a) COE that expire due to crew being unable to revalidate their COC, COP and/or MC due to travel restrictions imposed will be able to apply to crew@kiribaship.com to have the COE extended on condition that an official letter issued by the National Authority issuing the COC and/or COP supporting the extension is submitted.
- b) On the failure to produce an official letter of extension by the National Authority, the Kiribati Ship Registry may, on a case-to-case basis, issue a short term dispensation letter to allow the crew to continue to sail in his/her present capacity until the vessel is able to call at the first port where the crew can be replaced or repatriated. Please contact technical@kiribaship.com to apply for a dispensation if required.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Kiribati Ship Registry



Kiribati Ship Registry

Singapore Operations Office:

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MARINE CIRCULAR 53/2020

10 April 2020

TO Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers,
Recognized Organizations, Port Authorities, Flag State Inspectors

SUBJECT Extension of Statutory Certificates, Surveys, Audits & Inspections due to COVID-19

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- "FSI" – Flag State Inspection
- "ISM Code" – International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention
- "ISPS Code" – International Ship and Port Facility Security Code implemented through chapter XI-2
- "ISSC" – International Ship Security Certificate
- "MLC" – Maritime Labour Certificate
- "MLC 2006" – Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
- "PSC" – Port State Control
- "RO" – Recognized Organization as defined by IMO Resolution A.789(19)
- "SMC" – Safety Management Certificate

The term "Administration" shall mean Kiribati Ship Registry.

PURPOSE

This circular addresses the difficulties faced by the ship owner/manager in the arrangement of statutory surveys, audits and inspections as a result of travel restrictions imposed by port authorities around the world to curb the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

This circular is valid up till 31 December 2020, unless otherwise extended, revised or revoked.

APPLICATION

This circular applies to all Kiribati flagged vessels.

CONTENTS:

The Administration recognises this as exceptional times which necessitates flexibility and all industry stakeholders to work together to maintain the validity of statutory certificates by means of physical and remote survey techniques where possible.

In supporting the industry, the Administration will consider taking the below measures under force majeure on a case-to-case basis.

1. Statutory Surveys and Certificates:

Postponement of survey, servicing of equipment, and/or certificate extension beyond the maximum three (3) months in the event where scheduled surveys (drydock surveys, statutory surveys including IOPP renewal survey) are unable to be performed, either by physical attendance or remote means, due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

2. DOC (ISM Code):

2.1. Extending the DOC where the company cannot complete the required initial or annual verifications.

3. SMC (ISM Code):

3.1. Extending the Interim SMC where the initial ISM shipboard audit cannot be carried out.

3.2. Extending the intermediate ISM audit and authorize RO to issue Short Term SMC with the corresponding validity.

3.3. Extending the SMC where the renewal ISM shipboard audit cannot be carried out.

4. ISSC (ISPS Code):

4.1. Extending the Interim ISSC where the initial ISPS shipboard verification cannot be carried out.

4.2. Extending the intermediate ISPS verification and authorize RO to issue Short Term ISSC with the corresponding validity.

4.3. Extending the ISSC where the renewal ISPS shipboard verification cannot be carried out.

5. MLC (MLC 2006):

5.1. Extending the Interim MLC where the initial MLC 2006 shipboard verification cannot be carried out.

5.2. Extending the intermediate MLC 2006 verification and authorize RO to issue Short Term MLC with the corresponding validity.

5.3. Extending the MLC where the renewal MLC 2006 shipboard verification cannot be carried out.

6. Annual FSI:

6.1. Extending the annual FSI or consider remote inspection techniques where possible.

Applications for the force majeure measures shall be made to technical@kiribaship.com either through the ship operator or RO together with supporting documentation, and examples of supporting documentation may include the following:

- a) Port Authority statement that the vessel is quarantined and/or that no one is authorized to attend the vessel; or
- b) Statement or letter from the Inspector, Auditor and/or Surveyor stating that they are unable to attend the vessel in the port where the inspection, audit or survey was to take place due to travel or port restrictions; or
- c) Statement or letter from the shipyard stating that they are unable to accommodate the vessel on the date previously agreed.

Note: the documentation above are acceptable in the form of PDF or emails.

REFERENCES:

- 1) Kiribati Marine Circular 49/2020 – Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Kiribati Ship Registry



**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION, TRANSPORT
AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI**

MARINE DEPARTMENT

MARINE NOTICE 01/2020

PURPOSE

The purpose of this marine notice is to advise flag states, port states, vessel owners, operators, licensed pilots, masters and crews that the Kiribati Marine Department (Marine Department) within the Ministry Information, Transport and Tourism Development (MICTTD), has taken steps to effectively extend the duration of Kiribati Marine Departments issued:

- Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Certificates
- Certificates of medical fitness and
- Fishing Vessel Personnel Certificates

If they would otherwise expire during the period between April 2020 and December 2020.

STCW certificates include a certificate of recognition, a certificate of proficiency as a rating, a GMDSS radio operator certificate, a certificate of proficiency as marine cook and qualified steward.

Implementation

During this time of uncertainty that has been caused by COVID-19 and in line with the advice from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the Marine Department within MICTTD has taken pragmatic approach to seafarer certification.

As a result, the Marine Department has implemented arrangements that:

- Extend the expiry date of all Kiribati issued STCW certificates and associated endorsements, expiring between 1st April to 1 November 2020, for a period of 6 months from the expiry date noted on the certificate
- Extend the validity of Kiribati Marine Medical fitness issued certificates of medical fitness expiring between 01 April 2020 to 01 November 2020, for a period of six months from the date of expiry
- Enable owners and masters of ships to permit personnel subject above, to continue performing duties.

There is no requirement for vessel owners, operators or seafarers to apply to the Marine Department for the above measures to be used.

Revalidation

The above measures apply to all Kiribati issued STCW certificates. However, those seafarers who meet the eligibility requirements for revalidation, and have the ability to make an application before the expiry date of the certificate, are strongly encouraged to apply to revalidate their certificate before it expires.

Revalidation of expired certificates.

Please note that when the time comes to revalidate an expired certificate, the new replacement certificate will be issued for a period of five years from the original certificate of expiry date.

Further information

Should you require any further assistance or information, please contact the Kiribati Marine Department on +686 74026003 during working hours (0800hrs to 1615hrs Local time (UTC+12hrs)) or email to marine.officer@mcttd.gov.ki
