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

Circular Letter No.4385
16 February 2021

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

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

The Government of the Republic of Fiji has sent the attached communication, dated 16 February 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



16TH February 2021

The Secretary General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
UNITED KINGDOM

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY FOR FIJIAN SEAFARER

Your Excellency

The Maritime Safety Administration of Fiji (MSAF) presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and kindly request the IMO to note and circulate this letter to all member states.

MSAF received requests for the extension of certificate of competency from seafarers who are unable to sign off due to the challenges related to the current outbreak of COVID 19. On the other hand, seafarers may be facing challenges of completing courses required for the renewal of Certificate as per STCW 1978, as amended.

Considering the inconvenience that may be caused to seafarers and the advice of IMO per circular letter No. 4204/add.5 flag states to take a pragmatic and practical approach on the matter, the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji as per the attached letter decided to grant a general extension on the validity of each seafarers certificate for a period of 6 months.

For urgent matters and any inquiry, MSAF may be contacted on the below telephone and email address ceo@msaf.com.fj.

MSAF avails itself of this opportunity to renew to your Excellency and the IMO the assurance of its highest consideration.

We request that your organisation kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter together with the enclosed document.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Gravenall', is written over a light blue circular watermark.

SIMON GRAVENALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Enclosure:
Marine Notice 14/2021



MARINE NOTICE

14/2021

EXTENSION OF CERTIFICATION FOR SEAFARERS ON INTERNATIONAL VESSELS

1. Due to the challenges caused by COVID-19 and subject to the advice from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) all Flag States, Port States, Ship Owners, Operators, Ship Agents for foreign ships, Pilots, Masters and crews are hereby advised that the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) is extending the duration of the following Maritime Documents:
 - Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) certificates;
 - Medical Certificates
2. The validity of these certificates, inclusive of relevant endorsements, will be valid for a period of six (6) months from expiry OR until 10 August 2021 whichever comes earlier. These measures apply to Fijian seafarers on board international vessels who are unable to return due to covid restrictions to revalidate.
3. This sensible arrangement is put in place to enable Ship owners and Masters to permit seafarers with these expiring Maritime documents as listed above to continue performing their duties.
4. Ship owners, Operators and Seafarers need not apply to MSAF for such extension. However, the onus is on the ship operator to facilitate crew changes within the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) agreement.
5. Seafarers are further reminded that once you apply for revalidation of STCW certificates, your new certificate will be renewed for a period of five years, effective from the date your original certificate expired.
6. MSAF will be working with other Flag States to recognise their short courses for revalidation of certificates.
7. For further information, please contact us on email: info@msaf.com.fj or phone +679 3315266.

SIMON GRAVENALL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji

Level 4, Kadavu House, Victoria Parade

P O Box 326, Suva

Phone +679 3315266

10 February 2021
