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Circular Letter No.4232/Add.6
23 September 2020

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of Ukraine**

The Government of Ukraine has sent the attached communication, dated 22 September 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

**EMBASSY OF UKRAINE**Ref. 6124/23-327/2- *SH*

The Embassy of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization and has the honour to transmit herewith the official letter of Mr. Oleh YUSHCENKO, Acting Minister for Infrastructure of Ukraine, regarding the extension of validity of qualification documents of seafarers onboard ships, which are on a voyage during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Ukrainian Side kindly asks the IMO Secretariat to disseminate the attached information among the IMO Member States and Organisations.

The Embassy of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl. as stated, on 3 pages.

V.p.
London, *22* September 2020

**Secretariat
International Maritime Organization
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The International Maritime Organization

Secretary-General
H. E. Mr. Kitack Lim

Dear Mr. Lim!

On behalf of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine I have the honor to present my compliments to Your Excellency and to the International Maritime Organization and would like to address with the following.

Given the current situation and the introduction of the restrictive measures to prevent Covid-19 in the world and Ukraine and also considering that many companies do not have the opportunity to replace seafarers in a timely manner, in addition to the letters of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine dated 23.03.2020 № 890/46/14-20, dated 13.04.2020 № 5021/46/10-20 and dated 28.05.2020 № 1635/46/14-20 we would like to inform here with the measures adopted and enforced by the Ukraine regarding the validity of the qualification documents of seafarers which are on a voyage now, issued on behalf of Ukraine.

Let me address to the Secretariat with the kind request to circulate this letter among all Member States of the International Maritime Organization.

Let me avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency and the International Maritime Organization assurances of my highest consideration and express hope for further fruitful cooperation.

Attachment: Measures adopted and enforced by Ukraine on 2 pages.

Acting Minister

Oleh YUSHCENKO

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№12951/46/10-20 від 17.09.2020

**Annex to the letter of the Ministry of
Infrastructure of Ukraine
dated 17.09.2020
№ 12951/46/00-20**

**MEASURES, ADOPTED AND ENFORCED BY UKRAINE
WITH RESPECT TO COVID-19 COMBATING**

I. Flag State

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 disease, attendance of statutory surveys has become increasingly difficult. Furthermore, several shipyards cannot accommodate ships, for both booked and planned supervisions requiring dry docking. In view of these exceptional circumstances, in cases where surveyors, auditors and/or inspectors are not able to undertake scheduled surveys, audit and inspections due to restrictions imposed with regards to COVID-19, State Service for Maritime and River Transport of Ukraine will consider requests for extension/postponement under force majeure or unforeseen exceptional circumstances, on a case by case basis.

For the vessels which are operated on the Danube River the same approach will be applied.

II. Port State Control

No restrictions are applied.

III. Validity of Seafarer's certificates

Extension of the validity of seafarers documents beyond their expiry date:

1.1 Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency

The Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine has decided that the validity of Ukrainian Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) of the seafarers who are currently board vessels that expired in the period from 01.03.2020 or later and cannot be revalidated due to exceptional circumstances resulting from COVID-19 outbreak are granted a general extension of validity up to 31.12.2020 from the date of expiry in the case when such requirements are met:

- Flag State of the vessel recognizes such extension;
- Seafarers employment agreement must be extended for the same period and on the same basis and conditions.

Additional applications to the Ukrainian authorities are not required.

At the same time, Shipowners/Operators must just inform an appropriate governmental bodies of Ukraine about every case of extension of seafarer's employment via e-mail on psc.ua@marad.gov.ua, m.melnyk@mtu.gov.ua. Such

notification shall include: name of the shipowner/operator, name and IMO number of the vessel, full name and position of the seafarer, scanned copies or details of seafarers documents, copy of the extended seafarer's employment.

Such an extension does not require any separate official confirmation.

1.2. Medical certificates

Considering this situation as a force majeure, in respect of the Ukrainian medical certificates, following provisions for urgent cases allowed by the Regulation I/9 of the STCW Convention 1978. Based on that, the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine permits a seafarer to work without a valid medical certificate up to 31.12.2020.

It will also be acceptable if a seafarer at the earliest opportunity obtains a valid medical certificate in any country where this is possible.

1.3. Seafarers Identity Document.

The validity of Ukrainian Seafarers Identity Documents on board vessels which expire in the period from 01.03.2020 are granted general extension of validity up to 31.12.2020 from the date of expiry.

1.4. Seafarers staying at the Ukraine and their Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency or Seafarers Identity Documents or Medical certificates have expired or will soon expire, shall immediately revalidate their personal documents as soon as possible.

1.5. Seafarers who have returned to Ukraine from the board of vessels and their documents have expired shall immediately revalidate their personal documents as soon as possible if they are going to go on board of vessels again.

IV. Extension of maritime pilots' and pilot operators' documents.

Revoked.
