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Circular Letter No.4237/Add.14  
23 October 2020

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has sent the attached communication, dated 19 October 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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துறைமுகங்கள் மற்றும் கப்பற்றுறை அமைச்சு

(வணிகக் கப்பற்றுறைச் செயலகம்)

Ministry of Ports and Shipping

(Merchant Shipping Secretariat)

මගේ අංකය

My No.

எனது இலக்கம்

MSS/DG/7/414

ඔබේ අංකය

Your No.

உமது இலக்கம்

දිනය

Date

திகதி

19.10.2020

His Excellency Mr.Kitack Lim

Secretary General

International Maritime Organization

Dear Secretary General

**Re: General information on further steps adopted by the Government of Sri Lanka in order to extend the certificates of seafarers in the view of ongoing COVID – 19 pandemic**

In view of the recent uncertainty that have been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the country and having evaluated the difficulties encountered by the seafarers and ship-owners, the Merchant Shipping Secretariat as the Maritime Administration of Sri Lanka has adopted attached further steps which I hereby request to communicate with all member states of IMO.

I appreciate your valuable attention and efforts in advance.

Yours sincerely

A.W.Senaviratne

Director General of Merchant Shipping



# DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

## MERCHANT SHIPPING SECRETARIAT MINISTRY OF PORTS AND SHIPPING

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Bristol Building, 43-89, York Street, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka.

Telephone: +94(0)112435127, Fax: +94(0)112435160, E-mail: [dmsmos@slt.net.lk](mailto:dmsmos@slt.net.lk)

### MSN 07/2020

19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

#### Notice to:

Port State Control Authorities,  
Sri Lankan Ship-Owners, Operators Managers and Masters,  
Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Service Providers and  
Recognized Organizations.

#### Certification of Seafarers- Extra ordinary Measures Resulting COVID -19 Pandemic

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has issued circular letter No. 4204/Add.5/Rev.1 dated on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020, to encourage STCW certificates issuing administrations to take pragmatic and practical approach regarding the extension of certificates including medical certificates, and other associated endorsements due to the COVID -19 outbreak. Accordingly, Merchant Shipping Secretariat (MSS) has taken following further steps to extend the validity of certificates of seafarers.

All seafarers are encouraged to revalidate their CDC/COC/COP (including certificates required under chapter V and VI of the STCW convention and cooks 'certificates issued under MLC) certificates well in advance in the view of ongoing COVID -19 pandemic.

#### 1. Extension of the validity of Seafarers Certification.

- i. All CDCs, COCs, training certificates (i.e., certificates issued under chapter V and VI of the STCW convention), associated endorsements and cooks' certificates issued by MSS which have expired or are expiring between **01<sup>st</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020** will be extended till **30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**.
- ii. Certificates of Recognition (Endorsement attesting the recognition of national certificates of competency) which have expired or are expiring between **01<sup>st</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020** will remain valid for a maximum period up to **30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**, or earlier date as provided by a similar extension issued by the competent Authority of the Country which issued the certificates of competency.
- iii. There is no application required to be made for the aforementioned extension of certification.

- iv. Notwithstanding the above, whenever the revalidation of their expired certificate is to be carried out, the normal processes/fees will be applicable and new validity date will be for a period of five years from the original date of expiry of the certificates.

## **2. Medical certificates issued under MLC.**

- i. All medical certificates which have expired or are expiring will be extended for the period of three (3) months from the date of expiry in accordance with STCW 78 as amended.
- ii. Extension referred in sub paragraph i above, may be further extended for another three (3) months for seafarers who are unable to sign off due to various restrictions of port of calls, subject to following conditions.
  - a. Each request will be handled individually (case by case)
  - b. Duly completed form of application as prescribed in annexure-1 to this notice shall be submitted to the MSS with a copy of the existing medical certificate.

Issued on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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Merchant Shipping Secretariat  
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ANNEX 1

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Name (as in the passport)

First : .....

Middle: .....

Last : .....

DOB : DD / MM / YYYY

Sex : MALE / FEMALE

Passport number: ..... Nationality: .....

Name of the Ship: ..... Deck / Engine / Other (if other specify)

Type of ship: ..... Trading area: .....

Date: DD / MM / YYYY

**MEDICAL HISTORY – part 1 (To be filled by Candidate)**

Have you ever had any of the following conditions?	YES	NO
1. Eye / vision disorders		
2. High Blood pressure		
3. Heart / Vascular disease		
4. Heart Surgery		
5. Varicose veins / piles		
6. Asthma / Bronchitis		
7. Blood disorder		
8. Diabetes		
9. Thyroid problem		
10. Digestive disorders		
11. Kidney problems		
12. Skin disorders		
13. Allergies		
14. Infectious/contagious diseases		
15. Hernia		
16. Genital disorders		
17. Pregnancy		
18. Sleeping disorders		
19. Do you smoke, use alcohol or drugs?		
20. Under gone any Operations / Surgeries		
21. Epilepsy / Seizers		
22. Dizziness / Fainting		
23. Loss of consciousness		
24. Psychiatric disorders		

25. Depression		
26. Have you attempted suicide		
27. Loss of memory		
28. Imbalance situations		
29. Severe headache		
30. Ear (Hearing, tinnitus) / Nose / Throat disorders		
31. Restricted mobility		
32. Back or joint injuries / disorders		
33. Amputation		
34. Fractures / Dislocations		

If you have answered "YES" to any of the questions above, please specify:

**MEDICAL HISTORY – 2 (to be filled by the Master)**

	YES	NO
35. Has the seafarer ever been hospitalized during the contract?		
36. Has the seafarer ever been declared unfit for duty?		
37. Are you aware any medical problems, diseases or illnesses during his stay on board?		
38. Do you feel that seafarer is healthy and fit to perform the duties of your designated position / occupation?		

If you have answered "YES" to any of the questions above, please specify:

Masters Recommendation

Signature and Ship Stamp