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Circular Letter No.4299/Add.2
9 October 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 7 October 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



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

P.O. Box 487, Betio, Tarawa, Republic of KIRIBATI
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File Ref: 04/01

Date: 07th October 2020

H.E Mr. KITACK LIM

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

Dear **Secretary General**,

Subject: Extension of STCW '78 (as amended), STCW – 95 and Medical Fitness Certificates due to COVID-19

In reference to the continuing pandemic that still affects Seafarers and as a result Kiribati still close its borders, the Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development (the "Administrator") is informing the organization in response to continuous restrictions to national and international travels, adopted worldwide that have created difficulties to the shipping operations.

The Administrator had issued Marine Notice 04/2020 which further extends the validity of Kiribati Seafarers Certificates to 01st April 2021.

Please find attached, the above Marine Notice 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
Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development
Republic of Kiribati



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

MARINE DEPARTMENT

MARINE NOTICE 04/2020

Purpose

The purpose of this marine notice is to inform all concerned parties including, but not limited to, Port Authorities and Inspectors, Ship Masters, Ship Managers, Ship Owners, Ship Operators, Seafarers, Fishers, Recruiting Agents, Maritime Training Institutes, Approved Medical Doctors and Seamen's Unions to take note of the full contents of this Marine Notice in regard to the STCW, STCW-F and Medical Fitness certificates now expired during this time of COVID-19 crisis.

Concerns

Since the Government of Kiribati has officially declared re-extension of Border Closure, until end of December 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, and with the uncertainty of further extension(s) on Border Closure, the Kiribati seafarers and fishers working abroad on international voyage will continue to be affected, in meeting the mandatory provisions of the international conventions, the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978 (as amended), and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) 1995

Implementation

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

- All Kiribati issued STCW and STCW-F certificates, and associated endorsements, expired from 01 April 2020 are given extension of validity until 01 April 2021.
- All Kiribati Marine Medical fitness issued certificates of medical fitness, expired from 01 April 2020 are given extension of validity until 01 April 2021.
- Owners, operators and masters of ships to permit personnel subject above, to continue performing duties.

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.

Please note the norm of validity date of issue of the STCW and STCW-F certificates is 5 years, and a Medical Fitness certificate depends but not more than 2 years, after which periods a new replacement is required.

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@micttd.gov.ki