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Circular Letter No.4221/Add.2  
21 April 2020

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the People's Republic of China**

The Government of the People's Republic of China has sent the attached communication, dated 9 April 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

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Courtesy Translation

H.E. Mr. Kitack Lim  
Secretary-General  
International Maritime Organization

9 April, 2020

Your Excellency,

In response to Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5, Ministry of Transport of China has recently issued a *Notice on Extension of Duration of Related Certificates of Chinese Flagged Ships and Chinese Seafarers Engaged in International Voyages* to address concerns regarding certificates' validity and renewal as a consequence of the coronavirus outbreak.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this information to all Member States, Intergovernmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations.

Yours sincerely,

Liu Xiaoming  
Vice Minister  
Ministry of Transport  
The People's Republic of China

## **Notice on Extension of Duration of Related Certificates of Chinese Flagged Ships and Chinese Seafarers Engaged in International Voyages**

In an effort to fight COVID-19 pandemic and to maintain the normal operation of Chinese flagged ships, Maritime Safety Administration of the People's Republic of China issues the Notice on Extension of Duration of Related Certificates of Chinese Flagged Ships and Chinese Seafarers Engaged in International Voyages.

1. Validity of ship survey certificates, Safety Management Certificate (SMC), Document of Compliance (DOC) and International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) with dates of expiry falling between 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 will be extended to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in case that it is impossible to proceed with the surveys, audits and inspections due to the impact of COVID-19. The anniversary dates of above mentioned certificates will remain unchanged after extension.

2. Validity of Certificate of Competency (CoC) and Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) for seafarers of the People's Republic of China engaged in international voyages and Medical Certificate for seafarers of the People's Republic of China currently serving international voyages, with dates of expiry falling between 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, will be extended automatically for 6 months starting from the next day of expiry dates of the certificates in case that it is impossible for seafarers to go through with the trainings, examinations/assessments or medical examinations due to the impact of the COVID-19. Furthermore, the extension of Medical Certificate requires the seafarer's written declaration of compliance with seafarer's medical requirements which shall be agreed and signed by the ship's Master.

3. This Notice comes into effect on the day of its release.

Maritime Safety Administration of the People's Republic of China

4<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

# 中华人民共和国交通运输部

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

国际海事组织秘书长

林基泽先生

尊敬的林基泽秘书长，

按照国际海事组织关于鼓励发证机关对证书予以展期的倡议，中国交通运输部近日发布了《关于中国籍国际航行船舶、船员相关证书展期的公告》，以解决疫情期间船舶、船员相关证书到期无法更新的问题。

请将此函散发给 IMO 各成员国、政府间和非政府间组织为荷。

中华人民共和国交通运输部副部长



(刘小明)

二〇二〇年四月九日