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Lettre circulaire No 4262  
14 avril 2020

Destinataires : Tous les Membres de l'OMI  
Organisations intergouvernementales  
Organisations non gouvernementales bénéficiant du statut consultatif

Objet : **Communication du Japon**

Le Gouvernement du Japon a envoyé la communication ci-jointe\*, datée du 12 avril 2020, en demandant qu'elle soit diffusée par l'Organisation.

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\* En anglais seulement.



020-7465 6500

**EMBASSY OF JAPAN**  
101-104 PICCADILLY  
LONDON  
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His Excellency Kitack Lim  
Secretary General  
International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7SR

Re: Coronavirus and Seafarers' certificates

12 April 2020

Dear Secretary General,

In light of the current situation due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and IMO Circular Letter 4204/Add.5, please find attached the notification from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan containing measures that are taken in relation to the certification of seafarers.

We kindly ask the notification to be circulated to the IMO Member States, Intergovernmental Organizations and Non-governmental Organizations.

Sincerely yours,



Kazuya Nakao  
Alternative Permanent Representative of Japan  
to the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

**RE: Coronavirus and Seafarers' certificates.**

Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan (MLIT) understands the situation that maritime industry is facing challenges in meeting requirements stipulated in the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978(STCW) as a result of outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19). In particular, taking into account the governmental request on travel restraint, seafarers may experience challenges in completing courses required for the revalidation of Certificates of Competency (COCs), Certificates of Proficiency (COPs) and endorsement, as well as taking medical examinations.

Recognizing the above situation as an emergent condition, MLIT takes the following necessary measures until the difficult condition is improved.

1. COC and COP

Japanese COC and COP, whose expiration is on or after 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020, is granted to extend the validity regardless of their description.

2. Endorsement of COC

Japanese endorsement recognizing a COC issued by or under the authority of another Party under the regulation I/10 of the STCW Convention, whose expiration is on or after 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020, is granted to extend the validity regardless of its description provided the issuing Party grants extended validity of the COC.

3. Medical certificate

Japanese medical certificate, which is valid for one year, is granted to extend the validity regardless of its description.

For more information, please contact us at [hqt-stcw-coc@mlit.go.jp](mailto:hqt-stcw-coc@mlit.go.jp).

Maritime Bureau  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,  
Transport and Tourism

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