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Circular Letter No.4246
2 April 2020

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

Subject: **Communications from the Governments of:**
i the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; and
ii the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

The Governments of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam have sent the attached communications, dated 31 March 2020, with the request that they are circulated by the Organization.



THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE ADMINISTRATION
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Letter No: DMA/DDG-Tech/116

Date: 31 March 2020

To

His Excellency Mr. Kitack Lim
Secretary General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment London, SE 17 SR
United Kingdom

Subject: Extending the Validity of STCW Certificate of Myanmar Seafarers, onboard the vessel trading in international voyage, who are affected by the restriction arisen from the outbreak of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Department of Marine Administration under the Ministry of Transport and Communication of Myanmar, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the International Maritime Organization.

With regard to IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.5 on 17th March 2020, we would like to communicate the Marine Instruction (1/2020), on extending the Validity of STCW Certificate of Myanmar Seafarers, onboard the vessel trading in international voyage, who are affected by the restriction arisen from the outbreak of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus as attached.

We would appreciate it if you could circulate this document to IMO Member States.

Yours sincerely,

Thaung Kyaing
Director General
Department of Marine Administration



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MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
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Date: 30 March 2020

Marine Instruction (1 /2020)

Extending the Validity of STCW Certificate of Myanmar Seafarer, onboard the vessel trading in international voyage, who are affected by the restrictions arisen from the outbreak of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus

Applicable to: Myanmar Seafarers, Ship owners, Shipping Companies, Port State Control, Flag State Authorities, Manning/Crewing Agencies and Other Individuals Concerned

Reference: IMO Circular No. 4204/ Add. 5 on 17th March 2020

Summary

This Document provides guidance and information as a pragmatic and practical approach with regard to extension the validity of certificates onboard in the event of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID- 19) pandemic and subsequent outbreak worldwide that impacts essential Seafarer Training and Certification Services delivered by the Department of Marine Administration of Myanmar.

1. The entire global shipping industry is currently being posed a serious challenge of the COVID -19 and the rising tension involving countries which result in the limited entry and exist of ships to and from ports of affected countries.
2. The purpose of this Marine Instruction is to extend the validity of STCW certificates including medical certificates of Myanmar seafarer onboard the vessel trading in international voyage.
3. There might be Myanmar Seafarers who are currently serving onboard the ships engaged in the international voyage and whose seafarers STCW certificates including medical certificate may expire on board in view of the fact that their expected shore leave cannot be safely completed in countries those introduced national and local restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. With the requirements provided in paragraph 5, the Department of Marine Administration shall extend the validity of their STCW certificates including medical certificate for the duration of up to six months from the date of expiry.

5. The seafarer shall submit an application for extending the validity of their STCW certificates including medical certificate through concerned Manning /Crewing Agencies or Shipping Companies with the following requirements:

- (a) Application of seafarer;
- (b) Official letter from the concerned Manning /Crewing Agencies or Shipping Companies;
- (c) Copy of Certificates to be extended its validity; and
- (d) Copy of valid/new Seafarer Employment Agreement (SEA).



Thaung Kyaing

Director General

Department of Marine Administration



VIET NAM MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

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AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Subject: Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Vietnam's situational solution relates to seafarers certification practice

Dear Sir,

According to Guidance relating to the certification of seafarers in Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5, dated 17 March 2020 by the Organisation, Viet Nam Maritime Administration, under Ministry of Transport of Viet Nam, has already applied below solution to assist the crew, those are carrying certificates and endorsement issued by Viet Nam Maritime Administration under the provisions of 1978 STCW Convention, as amended:

Since 00:00: March 31, 2020, all kinds of certificates of proficiency (COP), certificates of competency (COC), certificates of endorsement attesting the recognition of the COC/COP, endorsement certificates attesting the issuance of the certificate (hereinafter referred to as seafarers' certificates issued by competent Viet Nam agencies) of crew members who are in services on the sea-going ships, those expire may be extended up to 3 (three) months counting from the date of expiry. The maximum extension is until July 31, 2020.

This provision does not apply to seafarers' certificates revoked by competent agencies for violations of law provisions.

If you have any request, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information,

Yours sincerely,



Hoang Hong Giang (Mr.)
Deputy Administrator