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Circular Letter No.4230/Add.2
3 April 2020

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Panama**

The Permanent Mission of Panama sent the attached communication, dated March 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

AUTORIDAD MARÍTIMA DE PANAMÁ
(PANAMÁ MARITIME AUTHORITY)
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MARINA MERCANTE
(GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MERCHANT MARINE)
DEPARTAMENTO DE CONTROL Y CUMPLIMIENTO
(DEPARTMENT OF CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE)

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(DCCM)
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Merchant Marine Notice

COVID-19 Request for Postponement- Extension of Statutory Certification & Services

No.: MMN-07/2020

March, 2020

This Merchant Marine Notice has the purpose to inform all ships' owners/operators, Recognized Organizations and other interested parties on how to proceed in case of request for postponement-extension of statutory certification & services.

As the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of the novel coronavirus a pandemic, it is vital that all governments remind that around 90% of global trade is transported by commercial shipping, which moves the world's food, energy and commercial goods (among them medical supplies).

It is our intention to contribute to keep maritime trade moving in this time of global crisis, in particular by facilitating the postponement-extension of all statutory certification, all survey services including ISM Code/ISPS Code audits and inspections related to MLC, 2006, in addition this is also applicable to Annual Safety Inspection (ASI) established by our flag, these exceptional measures are taken essentially in response to the current shut-downs, lock downs, and travel restrictions, implemented by several States worldwide.

The Panama Maritime Authority, committed to preserve the safety on board and the prevention of oil pollution is allowing its Recognized Organizations to:

1. Postpone/Extend all surveys, audits and inspections with due date between March and May 2020 for a period of three (3) months, subject to a subsequent revalidation or reinstatement of the correspondent certificate, therefore:
 - a. The Recognized Organizations are authorized to issue a Conditional Certificate valid for three (3) months using remote surveys or visits where possible, and to record the correspondent justification for each case according to the circumstances. The cooperation and prompt communication with this Administration are highly requested in case of facing any difficulty or inconveniences, to enabling us to act as quickly as possible with the required assistance.

- b. The Recognized Organization shall inform to this Administration as soon as each Conditional Certificate is issued. Please address your messages to the email conditionals@segumar.com in Panama Office or to the Segumar Office of your convenience (see contact table below).
2. Annual services of life saving appliances and firefighting equipment's with due date between March and May 2020, are allowed for an immediate extension valid for one (1) month subject to the agreement of the Recognized Organization. Extensions required for a longer period will be granted on a case by case basis, for the maximum period of three (3) months provided that supporting evidence of each case is presented to extensions@segumar.com.
3. Ship-owners/operators of those ships currently holding a Conditional Certificate related to a deficiency or damage onboard, shall contact us if the necessary malfunction, repair or administrative related matter is not possible to rectify, carry out or be provided; an email along with supporting evidence of each case shall be sent to conditionals@segumar.com. Please make sure the Recognized Organization responsible to issue the correspondent certificates is agree with the conditions on board.
4. The validity of all statutory certificates (except for Conditional Certificates) expiring between March and May 2020 are exceptionally extended for a period of three (3) months.
 - a. Maritime Labour Certificate (MLC, 2006)
 - b. Safety Management Certificate (SMC)
 - c. Document of Compliance (DOC)
 - d. International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC)
 - e. International Tonnage Certificate (ITC-69)
 - f. International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC)
 - g. Exemption Certificates
 - h. All other Statutory Certificates
5. Color copy of original signed Ships Registry Certificates (Patent), Radio Station License and Exemption Certificates issued by this Administration between February and March 24, 2020, as well as the soft copy of Exemptions certificates are exceptionally considered valid for three (3) months, from the certificate issue date.
6. The postponement/Extension of the inspection of the outside ships' bottom will continue to be processed on a case by case basis. Please follow the guidelines provided in our Merchant Marine Circular No.204.

7. In case of ISPS Code related matters, please refer to paragraph 9 in our Merchant Marine Notice MMN-002/2020, posted on March 24, 2020.
8. The following table provides the contact email addresses of our Segumar offices posted around the world:

Americas	
SEGUMAR Panama	extensions@segumar.com , conditionals@segumar.com , authorizations@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Miami	segumar.miami@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Houston	offshore@segumar.com
Asia	
SEGUMAR Tokyo	segumar@panaconsul-tokyo.com
SEGUMAR Imabari	segumar.imabari@segumar.com rchacon@segumarimabari.jp
SEGUMAR Seoul	segumarseoul@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Busan	segumarbusan@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Singapore	segumar.sg@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Shanghai	segumar.shanghai@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Manila	segumar.manila@segumar.com
Europe	
SEGUMAR Piraeus	segumarp@segumar.com
SEGUMAR Istanbul	segumarist@segumar.com
SEGUMAR London	segumar.uk@segumar.com
Middle East	
SEGUMAR Dubai	segumar.dubai@segumar.com

9. The implementation of these instructions is due to the urgency related to Covid-19. However, as soon as the crises overcome and restrictions imposed by each

State have raised, we will return to our regular procedures, and a review of the new mechanisms implemented will take place.

We recommend all interested parties to monitoring the situation by consulting the Marine Notices and procedures communicated by each Recognized.

March, 2020.

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any other request should be directed to:

*Maritime Ship Security Department
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority*

*Phone: (507) 501 5348
(507) 501 5350*

*E-mail: rberrocal@segumar.com
deputychief@segumar.com*