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4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT  
LONDON SE1 7SR  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.4241/Add.2  
27 May 2020

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

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

The Government of the Republic of Croatia has sent the attached communication, dated 15 May 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
**Ministry of Sea, Transport and  
Infrastructure**



CLASS: 810-03/20-01/30  
FILE. NO.: 530-04-3-1-20-13  
Zagreb, 15 May 2020

**Subject: GUIDELINES FOR ADOPTION OF EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES  
RESULTING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**  
**- URGENT MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**  
**- ADDITIONAL EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF SEAFARERS  
CERTIFICATES AND DOCUMENTS**

Taking into account our previous letter dated 18 March 2020 (CLASS: 810-03/20-01/30, FILE. NO.: 530-04-3-1-20-2) by which we have informed you on the *Guidelines for adoption of extraordinary measures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic* adopted by the Republic of Croatia, allow us to inform you on additional extension of validity of seafarers certificates and documents, as attached to this letter.

Since we have previously adopted measures by which we have granted general extension of seafarers certificates and documents expiring before 18 June 2020 for a period up to 3 (three) months and taking into account that the lockdown measures are still ongoing and we are approaching to the deadline already determined (18 June 2020), we have adopted amendments of these guidelines by which we have extended this period for additional 3 (three) months (until 18 September 2020).

We still believe that these measures are justified and in line with guidelines recommended by the International Maritime Organization (Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.5/Rev.1 dated 2 April 2020) in order to follow pragmatic and practical solutions that do not jeopardize safety.

There are total of 6374 of Croatian seafarers currently embarked on board vessels engaged in international navigation with their inability to disembark and repatriate to the Republic of Croatia.

These Guidelines are also adopted after consultation with the shipowners' and seafarers' organizations concerned.

Informing you all of the above, I would like to kindly request the circulation of this information to the Parties of the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization in order to avoid further difficulties of the seafarers concerned.

Yours Sincerely,

**Attachment**



Delivery:

**INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION  
4, ALBERT EMBANKMENT  
LONDON SE1 7SR  
UNITED KINGDOM**

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION  
4 ROUTE DES MORILLONS  
CH-1211  
GENÈVE 22  
SWITZERLAND**

**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT  
EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
1049 BRUXELLES/BRUSSEL  
BELGIUM**

**EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY  
PRAÇA EUROPA 4  
CAIS DO SODRÉ  
1249-206 LISBOA  
PORTUGAL**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PARIS MOU ON PSC  
P.O. BOX 16191  
2500 BD THE HAGUE  
THE NETHERLANDS**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE TOKYO MOU ON PSC  
ASCEND SHIMBASHI  
MINATO-KU, TOKYO  
JAPAN 105-0004**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN MOU ON PSC  
AV. EDUARDO MADERO 235. 8TH FLOOR. OFFICE 25 Y 26  
1106-CIUDAD AUTONOMA DE BUENOS AIRES  
REPUBLICA ARGENTINA**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN MOU ON PSC  
USHAKAL, HOUSE NO.92, PLOT NO. A-8, RANGAVI ESTATE,  
DABOLIM, GOA-403801  
INDIA**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE RIYADH MOU ON PSC  
P.O. BOX 1887 POSTAL CODE 114, HAIY AL MINA,  
SULTANATE OF OMAN**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE CARIBBEAN MOU ON PSC  
THE OFFICE CENTRE BUILDING, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR,  
12, OCEAN BOULEVARD, KINGSTON  
JAMAICA**

**SECRETARIAT OF ABUJA MOU ON PSC  
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT BUILDING  
1, JOSEPH STREET, P.O. BOX 4574, OFF MARINA, LAGOS  
NIGERIA**

**US COAST GUARD  
2703 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE SE  
WASHINGTON DC 20593-7000  
USA**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE BLACK SEA MOU ON PSC  
KEMANKES KARAMUSTAFAPASA MAH.  
KEMANKES CAD. NO.63 KAT:4/412  
(KIYI EMNIYETI GENEL MUDURLUGU)  
34425 BEYOGLU/ISTANBUL  
TURKEY**

Copy to:

**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE PENSION SYSTEM  
ULICA GRADA VUKOVARA 78  
10000 ZAGREB**

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
KSAVER 200A  
10000 ZAGREB**



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
**Ministry of Sea, Transport and  
Infrastructure**



CLASS: 810-03/20-01/30  
FILE. NO.: 530-04-3-1-20-13  
Zagreb, 15 May 2020

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**Subject: GUIDELINES FOR ADOPTION OF EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES  
RESULTING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Due to the extraordinary situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter: the Ministry) has decided to adopt measures for seafarers who are not able to revalidate all the documents required for service on board ships.

In that context and in the light of this extraordinary situation that can be declared as a *force majeure*, the Ministry has decided to grant a general extension of the validity of seafarers personal documents in order to allow them to work legally.

**1. EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF SEAFARERS DOCUMENTS  
BEYOND THEIR EXPIRY DATE**

**1.1. CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY AND CERTIFICATES OF  
PROFICIENCY**

The Ministry has decided that the validity of Croatian Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) which will expire before 18 September 2020 are granted a general extended validity of up to 3 (three) months.

The individual seafarer will not be required to submit an application.

**1.2. MEDICAL CERTIFICATES**

The Ministry has decided that the validity of Croatian medical certificates which will expire before 18 September 2020 are granted a general extended validity of up to 3 (three) months.

The individual seafarer will not be required to submit an application.

### **1.3. ENDORSEMENT OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES**

The validity of Croatian endorsements will be linked to the validity of the seafarer's national Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoP).

If the seafarer's national Certificate of Competency (CoC) or Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) is revalidated, it will be possible to apply for a new endorsement to the Ministry.

The seafarer will then be granted a Temporary endorsement valid for a period up to 3 (three) months.

If the administration that has issued the seafarer's national Certificates of Competency (CoC) or Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) chooses a general extension of the validity of the national Certificates of Competency (CoC) or Certificates of Proficiency (CoP), the validity of the Croatian endorsement issued based on the current Certificates of Competency (CoC) or Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) will automatically be considered extended accordingly.

The seafarer will not be required to submit an application.

### **1.4. SEAMEN'S BOOKS, EMBARCATION PERMITS AND SEAFARERS IDENTITY DOCUMENTS**

The Ministry has decided that the validity of seamen's books, embarkation permits and seafarers identity documents which will expire before 18 September 2020 are granted a general extended validity of up to 3 (three) months.

The individual seafarer will not be required to submit an application.

## **2. EXTENSION OF SEA SERVICE BEYOND THE SEAFARER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT PERIOD**

Due to the difficulties in inability to organize repatriation of the seafarers, the shipowners may extend the validity of the Seafarers Employment Agreement, if the seafarer concerned agrees with the extension period and if it is in accordance with applicable collective bargaining agreement.

In this situation, it is required to conclude an Addendum of the Seafarer Employment Agreement under the same terms and conditions as the underlying Agreement.

## **3. NOTIFICATION**

The Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia will notify all interested organizations (IMO, ILO, European Commission and others) on the above adopted measures.

These Guidelines will be also published on official Ministry's website:  
[www.mmpi.hr](http://www.mmpi.hr).

**4. APPLICATION**

By adopting these amended Guidelines, *the Guidelines for adoption of extraordinary measures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic* adopted on 18 March 2020 (CLASS: 810-03/20-01/30, FILE. NO.: 530-04-3-1-20-2) are no longer in force.

**5. CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us through the following e-mail address: [pomorci@pomorstvo.hr](mailto:pomorci@pomorstvo.hr)

Yours sincerely,



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