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Circular Letter No.4231/Add.2
17 April 2020

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

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

The Government of the Republic of Italy has sent the attached communication, dated 6 April 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

This is an English courtesy translation of the original documentation prepared in Italian language. Please consider that only the original version in Italian language has legal value.



*Ministry of the Environment
and of the Protection of the Land
and Sea*

DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR THE SEA AND
COASTLINES

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

HE Mr Kitack Lim
Secretary General
International Maritime Organization
secretary-general@imo.org

Subject: Measures arising from the covid-19 emergency regarding certificates relating to the international conventions (MARPOL 73/78, Ballast Water Management Convention, Anti-fouling Systems Convention)

Excellency,

this letter draws attention to the extraordinary need and urgency of mitigating the negative effects of the covid-19 epidemiological emergency on Italy's socio-economic fabric and the multiple notifications received regarding the practical difficulty of carrying out inspections on board ships for the purpose of renewing the abovementioned statutory certificates.

In order to allow Italian ships to continue their operations – which are, at this critical time, essential to the maintenance of the maritime transport network, this Administration has decided to extend by three months the validity of the following certificates, if they expire between 31 January and a date to be confirmed as the emergency evolves:

- International Oil Pollution Prevention (MARPOL 73/78 – ANNEX I);
- International Pollution Prevention Certificate for the carriage of noxious liquid substances in bulk (MARPOL 73/78 – ANNEX II);
- International Sewage Pollution Prevention (MARPOL 73/78 – ANNEX IV);
- International Air Pollution Prevention (MARPOL 73/78 – ANNEX VI);
- International Anti-Fouling System (AFS CONVENTION);
- International Ballast Water Management (BWM CONVENTION).

Such extensions do not necessitate on-board access or surveys.

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In cases where annual and intermediate surveys cannot be carried out by the established deadlines, the certificates for which this Department is responsible will comply with the procedures outlined by the Italian Coast Guard Headquarters in Circular 4/2020 of 6 March 2020; i.e. remote surveys will be carried out in order to issue an interim certificate valid for 12 months. In such cases, the survey in question must be carried out at the first possible port.

In view of the above, the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization is kindly requested to circulate the above information to the other member states and interested parties.

I take this opportunity to inform you that Italy's Directorate General for the Protection of Nature and the Sea (DG-PNM) – which falls under the Ministry of the Environment and of the Protection of the Land and Sea – has been renamed Directorate General for the Sea and Coastlines (DG-MAC). The contact person is the Director General of the aforementioned DG-MAC, Mr Giuseppe Italiano.

Italy avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

(signed)

Giuseppe Italiano

Ministry of the Environment

Director General MAC

06 April 2020

This document is signed electronically, in accordance with Presidential Decree no. 445/2000 and Legislative Decree no. 82 of 7 March 2005 and related regulations. This electronic document replaces the hard copy.