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

Subject: Communications from the Governments of:
i the State of Kuwait; and
ii the Republic of Liberia

The Governments of the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Liberia have sent the attached communications, dated 13 April 2020, with the request that they are circulated by the Organization.

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Mr. Lim Kitack.
Secretary general
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

13 April 2020

Subject: Measures taken by the State of Kuwait in the context of corona virus

(COVID-19) Outbreak on seafarers & ships Certifications

Dear Mr. Secretary general

The ministry of communications in the state of Kuwait presents its compliments to you and to your staff for your great efforts in taking all necessary actions in response to this lethal pandemic.

The marine department submitted the attached document Circ. No:1/2020 regarding extraordinary measures taken by the state in order to minimize the risk of spreading the disease in the community.

I would like to request the circulation of the attached circular to all (IMO) member states to avoid further difficulties regarding seafarers and ships certifications.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. Adel H. AL-Dashti
Assistant Undersecretary of Transport Sector
Ministry of Communications
State of Kuwait
Tell: + 965 99000876
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KSN / MTD Circ. 1 / 2020
إشعار إدارة النقل البحري رقم (1) لسنة 2020

Marine Transport Department guidance relating
Ships/Seafarers Certifications - Extraordinary
measures resulting (COVID-19) pandemic

To:
1. Kuwaiti Ship-Owners, Operators, Managers and Masters;
2. Recognized Organizations;
3. Port State Control Authorities;

The actions taken by Governments worldwide as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak pose a serious challenge to the shipping industry. Such actions have directly affected:

- All matters related to ships surveys, inspections, certifications and/or renewal of statutory certificates;

- The continued training of seafarers, revalidated certificates, including medical certificates, and issuance of endorsements attesting recognition of certificates in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for seafarers (STCW Convention), 1978, as amended; and

- Service period of Kuwaiti seafarers.

Based on the above conditions, the MTD considers the COVID-19 outbreak to be an exceptional circumstance.
Scheduled Statutory Surveys and Audits (MLC 2006, ISM Code and ISPS Code)

In cases where RO surveyors are not able to undertake scheduled surveys or audit due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19, the MTD will consider postponement under exceptional circumstance for vessels for which the time frame of endorsement or renewal of certificates is three months extension may be granted without further approval from the MTD. While all reasonable efforts should be taken to ensure that statutory certificates are kept valid, ROs are hereby authorized to grant extension on behalf of Administration.

Dry docking surveys and servicing of ship’s equipment

Extension of a vessel’s dry-docking survey or servicing of ship’s equipment as required by IMO Conventions and its guidelines due to COVID-19, the MTD will consider postponement under exceptional circumstance to exempt that vessels for three months. While all reasonable efforts should be taken to ensure that ship’s equipment servicing are maintained, ROs are hereby authorized to grant extension on behalf of Administration.

Safe Manning Document (SMD) and exemptions to SMD

The SMD will be issued in the formal format. Where it can be demonstrated that a crew member is required to depart a vessel due to the virus and the ship owner/operator is unable to replace them, exemptions to SMD will be considered on a case by case basis. Each request should be supported by Minimum Safe Manning Assessment from the company by sending the request with supporting documents via e-mail of the Seafarers Affairs Section, Marine Transport Department as mentioned below.
- Extension of the validity of STCW Endorsements attesting the Recognition of Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency

Issuing Endorsements attesting the (COR) Recognition of Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency or the revalidation of expired COR may be extended if national Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency are extended as well by sending the request with supporting documents via e-mail of the Seafarers Affairs of the MTD to the following e-mail: ses.a@moc.gov.kw

Applications should be submitted to this Administration including Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency endorsed with a new expiry date by the issuing Administration. Some of the issuing authorities have issued circulars with general extension of Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency until certain dates. A copy of such circular may be forwarded as supporting documentation.

The MTD will approve the request form as a proof of submission by applicants.

Service Request Form, can be found on the MOC website: http://moc.gov.kw/English/marine_services_en.html

- Seafarers who are onboard vessel beyond their contracts for reasons connected with the virus.

The company should ensure that the seafarers are kept informed of the risks of infection, reasons as to why they are required to stay on board, any measures being taken is for their protection and arrangements for their repatriation.

- البحار المتواجدون على متن السفينة بعد تاريخ انتهاء عقودهم لأسباب

 clocks and 프로스.

 يجب على الشركة التأكد من إبقاء البحارة على إطلاع بخطر الإصابة، و أسباب الطلب منهم للبقاء على متن السفينة، ويجب إجراءات يتم اتخاذها لحمايتهم والترتيبات الخاصة بإعادتهم إلى وطنهم.
A valid Seafarers Employment Agreement (SEA) must remain in force until repatriation. If any of the Seafarer Employment Agreements have expired, they must be extended, or new ones issued. The company needs to ensure that the seafarers are sent home at the first available opportunity. Evidence should be retained by both the seafarer and the company clearly demonstrating the reason why the seafarer was asked to extend their contract.

- Issue new/renewal of Seamen’s Record Book
MTD recommends applicants submit all their documents via email to Seafarer Affairs Section as mentioned above.

These temporary measures shall remain in place for a period of three (3) months starting from 01 April 2020 and are subject to review as the situation develops.

This Circular should be kept on board ready to be disclosed to PSC Officers.

For further clarification please contact:
marinedept@moc.gov.kw

Registrar of Kuwaiti Ships

KSN/MTD. Circ.1/2020
1-APRIL-2020
www.moc.gov.kw
April 13, 2020

Dear Secretary General:

Re: Guidance for Seafarers and Shipowners due to COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Liberian Administration has issued guidance on Seafarers certification and ship survey and certification to assist Liberian seafarers', owners and operators of Liberian flagged vessels and those working on behalf of the Registry. This guidance is available on the Liberian Registry’s website at: Liberian Registry response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We kindly request this document is circulated to IMO Member States, representatives from United Nations specialized agencies, Intergovernmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status.

Sincerely,

Margaret C. Anumana
Senior Deputy Commissioner for Maritime Affairs/
Deputy Corporate Registrar, R.L.