



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Shipping

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Update 1 of Circular Number: 05/2020

Issue Date: 28-05-2020

To: Ship-owners, managers, operators, masters, Officers, Crew, recognized organizations, Certifying Authorities, PSCO's, Ship Manning Agents, Shipping Agents, Maritime Training Academies/Institutes, Port Health Officers and the Shipping community

UPDATED CIRCULAR RELATING TO CERTIFICATION OF SHIP'S AND SEAFARER'S FOR CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC.

For dealing with the impact of the outbreak of COVID-19 Department of Shipping, Bangladesh issued a circular on 23 March 2020 to apply relaxation on certification of ships and seafarers. In accordance with the circular all types of ship's and seafarer's certificates were extended up to 30 June 2020. A second circular was issued on 20 April 2020 where many of the ship's and seafarer's certificates expiring before 1 October 2020 was extended for further six months from the expiry date printed/typed on the relevant certificate.

IMO conventions do not allow extension of surveys, audits and inspections beyond the stipulated window period; however, it allows extension of renewal survey by 03 months under special circumstances. STCW convention 1978 as amended also does not allow extension of seafarer's certificates beyond the expiry date until stipulated requirements are met.

Taking into account that serious interruptions to the shipping industries are becoming long-lasting and uncertain as the consequence of the pandemic COVID-19; such as travel restrictions; lock down; delayed port clearance; prevention of crew and passengers from embarking or disembarking (preventing shore leave and crew changes); Prevention of discharging or loading cargo or stores, or taking on fuel, water, food and supplies; and imposition of quarantine or refusal of port entry to ships etc. In these circumstances seafarers are not able to sign off/repatriated and under compulsion

to sail with expired CoC/CoP/CoR and seafarers willing to sail cannot validate/renew their expired CoC/CoP/CoR.

Seafarers who have signed off prior to spread of pandemic/lock-down may not have got enough opportunity to revalidate their CoC/CoP/CoR due to continued lock-down, travel restrictions and maritime training institutes are being closed.

Hence Bangladesh **reviewed/revised and updated** the circular number 05/2020 in order to cope with the uncertain circumstances. In this update Para 2, 4 & 5 will be replaced as below and other Para of the circular number 05/2020 will remain unchanged. The circular may be further reviewed in due course of time upon any future IMO/ILO initiatives or developments of the situation on this issue.

2. Seafarer's Certification:

Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) and associated endorsements which have expired or are expiring between 1 February 2020 and 1 June 2021 (both days inclusive), shall remain valid, irrespective of whether the seafarer is/was on ship at the time of expiry or not. Seafarers are not required to apply for the extension but may retain a copy of this circular for the guidance of the officials.

During the revalidation of expired certificates, the new validity shall be issued for a period of five years from the original expiry date.

Consideration will be given to allow seafarers who hold foreign issued Certificates of Competencies (CoC) to continue serving onboard Bangladesh Registered Ships, if they are unable to revalidate their CoC before the expiry date due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Bangladesh Registered Ship-owners and managers may submit such request in-writing to Department of Shipping (cns@dos.gov.bd), accompanied with a confirmation of continued validity from the issuing authority of the seafarer's CoC.

4. Seafarers Medical certificate:

Seafarer's medical certificate which have expired or are expiring between 1 February 2020 and 1 June 2021 (both days inclusive), shall remain valid, irrespective of whether the seafarer is/was on ship at the time of expiry or not. Seafarers are not required to apply for the extension but may retain a copy of this circular for the guidance of the officials.

5. Continues Discharge Certificate (CDC):

Continues Discharge Certificate (CDC) which have expired or are expiring between 1 February 2020 and 1 June 2021 (both days inclusive), shall remain valid, irrespective of whether the seafarer is/was on ship at the time of expiry or not .Seafarers are not required to apply for the extension but may retain a copy of this circular for the guidance of the officials.



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