

As the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as pandemic, due to the difficult epidemiologic situation in various regions of the world, in order to protect the health of seafarers and employees of the maritime sector, to ensure the uninterrupted operation of ships flying the State Flag of the Russian Federation, the Maritime Administration of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Administration) hereby imposes the following measures for cases if the validity of statutory certificates, certificates of seafarers and seafarers employment agreements has expired or is due to expire before 20 June 2020.

The present measures are to be applied only for cases of force-majeure, when it is impossible or difficult to carry out surveys or inspections of the ship in port, change the crew, due to the ship being called at port of a State where limitations to leave or embark the ship or travel in the territory of that State are in place due to unfavourable epidemiologic situation resulted from COVID-19.

Seafarers Certificates

In case if it is not possible, due to limitations related to COVID-19, to extend in due course the Certificates of Competence issued by the Administration as well as the endorsements in recognition of certificates issued by other Governments, Certificates of Proficiency, tanker endorsements (oil tankers, liquefied gas tankers, chemical tankers), certificates for ship's cooks or other documents issued in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW), the validity of such documents is extended for up to three (3) months.

Medical certificates

In case if the validity of medical certificate is due to expire, and there is no possibility to carry out medical examination and renew the certificate in the port of call due to limitations related to COVID-19, the validity of medical certificate is extended for up to three (3) months from the expiry date of the certificate, in conformity with the Regulation 1.2 of the Maritime Labour Convention as amended (MLC 2006).

Duration of employment on board

In case if ship's crew cannot be changed within the maximum determined duration of employment of seafarers on board, due to limitations related to COVID-19, the duration of employment as determined in the seafarer's employment agreement may be extended up to three (3) months, on the condition of seafarer's consent and provided that the seafarer's rights for leave and appropriate repatriation have been observed, as per the requirements of Regulation 2.4 and 2.5 of the MLC 2006.

Statutory ship certificates, periodic surveys and inspections

In case if it is not possible to carry out survey or inspection of a ship due to limitations related to COVID-19, shipowners of ships flying the State Flag of the

Russian Federation should apply to the recognized organizations which are authorized, in each particular case, without additional approval by the Administration, to extend the validity of statutory certificates, terms of scheduled surveys and inspections, for to up to three (3) months.