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Circular Letter No.4232/Add.8  
10 December 2020

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of Ukraine**

The Government of Ukraine has sent the attached communication, dated 9 December 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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**Embassy of Ukraine**  
in the United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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Nr. 6124/23-327/2- *4189*

The Embassy of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization and has the honour to transmit herewith the letter of Mr. Vladyslav KRYKLII, Minister for Infrastructure of Ukraine dated 08.12.2020 Nr.4144/46/14-20, regarding the extension of validity of qualification documents of seafarers onboard ships, which are on a voyage during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Ukrainian Side kindly asks the IMO Secretariat to disseminate the attached information among the IMO Member States and Organisations.

The Embassy of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl. as stated, on 3 pages.

*V.P.*

London, *09* December 2020

**Secretariat**  
**International Maritime Organization**  
**4 Albert Embankment**  
**London SE1 7SR**



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H. E. Mr. Kitack Lim  
Secretary-General  
International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment, Prince's, London  
SE1 7SR, United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Lim!

I have the honor to present my compliments to the International Maritime Organization and address with the following.

Given the current situation and the introduction of restrictive measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 worldwide and in Ukraine in particular, considering the fact that many companies are unable to secure timely crew changes, and in addition to the letters of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine No 890/46/14-20 of 23<sup>st</sup> March 2020, No 5021/46/10-20 of 13<sup>st</sup> April 2020, No 1635/46/14-20 of 28<sup>st</sup> May 2020 and No 12951/46/10-20 of 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine informs herewith of the measures adopted and enforced by Ukraine with regard to the validity of seafarers' qualification documents, issued on behalf of Ukraine to seafarers, who are currently on voyage.

We would be very grateful for circulating this letter among all IMO Member States by the Secretariat.

Let me avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency and the International Maritime Organization assurances of my highest consideration and express hope for further fruitful cooperation.

Attachment: List of Measures Adopted and Enforced by Ukraine (2 pages).

Minister

Mykola Melnyk +38044 351 44 80

Vladyslav KRYKLII

014049



№4144/46/14-20 від 08.12.2020

**Annex to the letter of the Ministry of  
Infrastructure of Ukraine**

**MEASURES ADOPTED AND ENFORCED BY UKRAINE  
in response TO COVID-19**

**I. Flag State**

Since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, it has become increasingly difficult to access statutory surveys. Furthermore, several shipyards are unable to accommodate vessels, for both booked and routine surveys requiring dry docking. In view of these exceptional circumstances, in cases where surveyors, auditors and/or flag state inspectors are unable to conduct routine surveys, audit or inspections due to COVID-imposed restrictions, the State Service for Maritime and River Transport of Ukraine will consider requests for extension/postponement under force majeure or unforeseen exceptional circumstances on a case by case basis.

The same approach will be followed for the vessels operating on the Danube river.

**II. Port State Control**

No restrictions are applied.

**III. Validity of Seafarer's Certificates**

Extension of the validity of seafarers' documents beyond their expiry date:

**1.1 Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency**

The validity of Ukrainian Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) of seafarers, who are currently onboard, that expired on or after 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 or later and cannot be renewed due to exceptional circumstances resulting from COVID-19 outbreak, are now extended until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 from the date of expiry in case the following requirements are met:

- Flag State of the vessel recognizes such an extension;
- Seafarer's Employment Agreement (SEA) should be extended for the same period and on the same terms and conditions.

Additional appeals to the Ukrainian authorities are not required.

At the same time, shipowners/operators should only inform the relevant state authorities of Ukraine about each case of extension of seafarers' employment agreements via [psc.ua@marad.gov.ua](mailto:psc.ua@marad.gov.ua), [m.melnyk@mtu.gov.ua](mailto:m.melnyk@mtu.gov.ua). Such notification should include: name of the shipowner/operator, name and IMO number of the vessel, full name and position of the seafarer, scanned copies or details of the seafarer's documents and a copy of the SEA extension.

Such an extension does not require any separate official confirmation.

#### 1.2. Medical certificates

Based on paragraph 6 of the Regulation I/9 of the STCW Convention 1978, seafarers may work without a valid medical certificate expires until the next port of call where a medical practitioner recognized by the Party of the STCW Convention 1978 is available, provided that:

- 1) the period of such permission does not exceed three months;
- 2) the seafarers concerned is in possession of an expired medical certificate during the terms of validity of the current SEA

#### 1.3. Seafarers' Identity Document.

The validity of Ukrainian Seafarers Identity Documents on board vessels, which expire on or after 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 is now extended until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 from the date of expiry.

1.4. Seafarers who are at home, and whose CoC, CoP, Seafarer's Identity Documents or Medical Certificates have expired or will soon expire, we recommend revalidate them.

1.5. Seafarers returning to Ukraine from voyages (the board of vessels), whose documents have expired, should revalidate them, provided they plan to go on a voyage (on the board of vessels) again.

### **IV. Extension of Documents of Maritime Pilots and Pilot Operators.**

Revoked.

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