



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

MERCHANT SHIPPING SECRETARIAT MINISTRY OF PORTS AND SHIPPING

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MSN 07/2020 - Revised

MSN 07/2020 has been revised with effect from 16th November 2020

16th November 2020

Notice to:

All Seafarers;

Port State Control Authorities;

Ship-Owners, Operators Managers and Masters;

Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Service Providers;

Recognized Organizations; and

All other Concerned Parties.

Certification of Seafarers- Extra ordinary Measures Resulting COVID -19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the conducting of training programmes, revalidation of certificates of seafarers and ship to shore interactions including crew changes. As a result, the ship owners, Operators and Seafarers recruitment and placement service providers are seeking protracted validity period of certificates of Sri Lankan seafarers in order to gain continuing employment opportunities on board ships.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has issued circular letter No. 4204/Add.5/Rev.1 dated on 2nd April 2020, to encourage STCW certificates issuing administrations to take pragmatic and practical approach regarding the extension of certificates including medical certificates, and other associated endorsements due to the COVID -19 outbreak. Accordingly, Merchant Shipping Secretariat (MSS) has taken following further steps to extend the validity and revalidation of certificates of seafarers.

All seafarers are encouraged to apply for revalidation of their National Continuous Discharge Certificate / Certificate of Competency/ Certificate of Proficiency (CDC/COC/COP) including certificates required under chapter V and VI of the STCW convention and cooks 'certificates issued under MLC after completing their online/offline courses, as applicable to their certificate to be revalidated at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the standard requirements for revalidation. In which case, the 5-year validity date shall be reckoned from the original expiration date of the previous certificate.

1. Extension of the validity of Seafarers Certification.

- 1.1. All CDCs, COCs, training certificates (i.e., certificates issued under chapter V and VI of the STCW convention), associated endorsements and cooks' certificates issued by the MSS, that are expiring between **01 May 2020 and 30 December 2021**(both dates inclusive) will be extended till **31 December 2021**. This applies to all above mentioned certificates of Seafarers who are both onboard or ashore.
- 1.2. Certificates of Recognition-COR (Endorsement attesting the recognition of national certificates of competency) and applications for issuing COR, that are expiring between **01 May 2020 and 30 December 2021**(both dates inclusive) will remain valid for a maximum period up to **31 December 2021**, or earlier date as provided by a similar extension issued by the competent authority of the Country which issued the certificates of competency.
- 1.3. There is no application required to be made for the aforementioned extension of certificates.

2. Revalidation of Certificates

- 2.1. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 above, seafarers who were affected by the suspension and or unavailability of training and assessment programmes, their STCW certificates will be revalidated without any requirement of refresher training and /or practical assessment of competence, Online request will be accepted and accordingly, CDC/COC/COP certificates will be endorsed for a period of **one (1) year** from the date of expiry of the certificate subject to the following:
 - 2.1.1 **Twelve Months** of seagoing experience in total during the preceding five years.; or
 - 2.1.2 **Three Months** of seagoing experience in total during the preceding six months immediately prior to revalidating.
- 2.2 The tanker COPs will be revalidated, even if expired, when the seafarer has completed approved seagoing service, performing the duties appropriate to the tanker certificate held, for a period of at least three (3) months in total during the preceding 5 years.
- 2.3 Seafarers applying for revalidation of COPs and COCs shall meet the standards of medical fitness specified in section A-I/9 of the STCW Code and shall possess a valid medical certificate.
- 2.4 In order to verify the seafarers seagoing experience mentioned in sub paragraph 2.1 above, mandatory documents required for the process of revalidation are as follows;
 - 2.4.1 Original COC/CDC/COP certificate(s) to be revalidated.;
 - 2.4.2 Copy of CDC pages showing sea service records.;

- 2.4.3 Valid medical certificate issued by approved medical practitioner.;
- 2.4.4 Copy of Passport which includes in/out immigration stamps pages; and
- 2.4.5 Deck or Engine watch keeping certificates.
- 2.4.6 Sea service testimonials.

2.5 Detailed internal process of revalidation of certificates will be notified through a circular.

3 Medical certificates issued under MLC.

This section is applicable to Sri Lankan seafarers who are sailing onboard vessels.

- i. All medical certificates which have expired or are expiring will be extended for the period of three (3) months from the date of expiry in accordance with STCW 78 as amended.
- ii. Extension referred in sub paragraph i above, may be further extended for another three (3) months for seafarers who are unable to sign off due to various restrictions of port of calls, subject to following conditions.
 - a. Each request will be handled individually. (case by case)
 - b. Duly completed form of application as prescribed in annexure-1 to this notice shall be submitted to the MSS with a copy of the existing medical certificate.

Issued on 16th November 2020

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ANNEX 1

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name (as in the passport)

First :

Middle:

Last :

DOB : DD / MM / YYYY

Sex : MALE / FEMALE

Passport number: Nationality:

Name of the Ship: Deck / Engine / Other (if other specify)

Type of ship: Trading area:

Date: DD / MM / YYYY

MEDICAL HISTORY – part 1 (To be filled by Candidate)

Have you ever had any of the following conditions?	YES	NO
1. Eye / vision disorders		
2. High Blood pressure		
3. Heart / Vascular disease		
4. Heart Surgery		
5. Varicose veins / piles		
6. Asthma / Bronchitis		
7. Blood disorder		
8. Diabetes		
9. Thyroid problem		
10. Digestive disorders		
11. Kidney problems		
12. Skin disorders		
13. Allergies		
14. Infectious/contagious diseases		
15. Hernia		
16. Genital disorders		
17. Pregnancy		
18. Sleeping disorders		
19. Do you smoke, use alcohol or drugs?		
20. Under gone any Operations / Surgeries		
21. Epilepsy / Seizers		
22. Dizziness / Fainting		
23. Loss of consciousness		
24. Psychiatric disorders		

25. Depression		
26. Have you attempted suicide		
27. Loss of memory		
28. Imbalance situations		
29. Severe headache		
30. Ear (Hearing, tinnitus) / Nose / Throat disorders		
31. Restricted mobility		
32. Back or joint injuries / disorders		
33. Amputation		
34. Fractures / Dislocations		

If you have answered "YES" to any of the questions above, please specify:

MEDICAL HISTORY – 2 (to be filled by the Master)

	YES	NO
35. Has the seafarer ever been hospitalized during the contract?		
36. Has the seafarer ever been declared unfit for duty?		
37. Are you aware any medical problems, diseases or illnesses during his stay on board?		
38. Do you feel that seafarer is healthy and fit to perform the duties of your designated position / occupation?		

If you have answered "YES" to any of the questions above, please specify:

Masters Recommendation

Signature and Ship Stamp