



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

MERCHANT SHIPPING SECRETARIAT MINISTRY OF PORTS AND SHIPPING

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MSN 02/2021

07th June 2021

This notice supersedes MSN 07/2020 – Revised issued on 03rd November 2020

Notice to:

**All Seafarers;
Port State Control Authorities,
Ship-Owners, Operators Managers and Masters,
Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Service Providers;
Recognized Organizations (SRPS Providers; and
All other Concerned Parties**

Procedure for Extension/Revalidation and Issuance of Certification for Seafarers

Whereas the onset of COVID-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka, the Merchant Shipping Secretariat (MSS) has taken several precautionary measures to protect and safeguard seafarers as well as associated people in the nautical institutes. Accordingly, Seafarers STCW certificates including medical certificates and other associated endorsements shall be extended/revalidated as follows.

There is no application required to be made for the aforementioned extension/revalidation of certification.

Notwithstanding the above, whenever the revalidation of their expired certificate is to be carried out, the normal processes/fees will be applicable and new validity date will be for a period of five years from the original date of expiry of the certificates.

However, all seafarers are advised to revalidate their National Continue 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) certificates well in advance in the view of ongoing COVID -19 pandemic.

1. Extension of the validity of Seafarers Certification.

- i. This applies to all Seafarers who are both Onboard of Ashore at the time of the expiry of their certificates
- ii. 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 MSS which have expired or are expiring between **31st December 2020 and 31st December 2021** will be extended till **31st December 2022**.
- iii. Certificates of Recognition (Endorsement attesting the recognition of national certificates of competency) and applications for issuing COR which are expiring till which have expired or are expiring between **31st December 2020 and 30th December 2021** will remain valid for a maximum period up to **31st December 2022**, or earlier date as provided by a similar extension issued by the competent Authority of the Country which issued the certificates of competency.

Certificates Revalidation Process

Any Seafarers who were unable to revalidate their certificates due to unavailability of trainings and assessments during the COVID -19 pandemic, even where the COP and COC have expired or expiring with the period **01st January 2021 to 30th June 2022**, the original certificate(s) will be endorsed or a letter indicating the revalidation of certificate will be issued to the qualified applicants for a period of eighteen months (18) from the date of expiry indicated on the applicable certificate(s).

Medical certificates issued under MLC.

- 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 MSN 07 - REVISED shall be submitted to the MSS with a copy of the existing medical certificate.

Issued on 07th June 2021

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