



Technical Circular

No.: 014/2020

Date: 16th March 2020

Subject: Panama Maritime Authority Merchant Marine Notice, MMN-03/2020 Reg Coronavirus and Seafarers Employment Agreement and Certificates

1. Reference is made to our Technical Circular No. 010/2020, dated 26th February 2020 reg Panama Maritime Authority on Coronavirus and Seafarers Employment Agreement.
2. The Panama Maritime Authority vide updated Merchant Marine Notice MMN-03/2020 (copy attached) has now informed that in those cases where crew change is not possible due to the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Administration considers granting exemptions to the following requirements;
 - a. If the seafarers employment agreement expires or will expire soon, an exception to Standard A2.4.3 'Entitlement to leave', and Standard A2.5.1.2 (b) 'Repatriation' of the Maritime Labour Condition 2006, will be granted in order to extend it.
 - b. In those cases where the change of crew, due to expiration of the Certificate/s cannot be carried out, the Administration will consider issuance of an Exemption or Dispensation Letter based on evaluation of the nature of the case.
3. Exemption/ Dispensation as above will be granted by Panama administration through an Authorization letter.
4. **Extension of Seafarers Employment Agreement:** Shipowners seeking Extension of seafarers employment agreement as per '2 a' above, are required to request SEGUMAR Office submitting the following requirements;
 - Email requesting the extension of the seafarers employment agreement, including the particulars of the vessel, seafarer name and position onboard,
 - Copy of Seafarer Employment Agreement of each seafarer for whom extension is requested,
 - Crew List,
 - Copy of the Registry certificate.

5. Exception letter granted by Panama Administration under above provision will be valid for a period of three (3) months to continue being engaged under the Seafarers employment agreement beyond a period of 11 months and the granted extension will be reviewed by the Administration considering the condition of the COVID-19.
6. By the end of extension provided, the concerned seafarer shall have the right to annual leave with pay and be duly repatriated as per standard A 2.4.3 and A 2.5.1.2(b).
7. **Extension of Seafarers Certificates including Certificate of Endorsement:** Shipowners seeking Extension of seafarers certificates including certificate of endorsement as per Para '2 b' above are required to request SEGUMAR Office submitting the following requirements;
 - Email requesting the extension of the Certificate, including the particulars of the vessel, crew name and position onboard,
 - For extension of certificate under Regulation I/2 of the STCW'78 Convention , as amended, Copy of the Certificate issued by the Panama Maritime Authority,
 - For extension of certificate issued under Regulation I/10 of the STCW'78 Convention , as amended, Authorization letter of extension of the issuance Country and copy of the Home Country License,
 - Crew List,
 - Copy of the Registry certificate.
8. Extension granted by Panama Administration under above provision will be valid for a period of three (3) months from the date of expiration of the certificate/s, and will be reviewed by the Administration to decide whether the granted extension requires additional period considering the condition of the COVID-19.
9. **Dispensation Letter:** If any third Party member of the STCW'78 Convention, who issued the Seafarers Certificate has not extended it due to Corona Virus outbreak, Panama Administration will grant a Dispensation Letter to the capacity (rank). Shipowners seeking Dispensation Letter are required to request SEGUMAR Office submitting the following requirements;
 - Copy of the Certificate/s,
 - Crew List,
 - Copy of the Registry certificate.
10. Administration has further informed that;

- If the medical certificate of a seafarer expires, it shall continue in force in this exceptional circumstances for a period of three (3) months from its expiry date (MLC, 2006 Standard A1.2.9).
 - Certificate of proficiency issued by an authorized Maritime Training Center of Panama in accordance with the regulation V and VI of the STCW, as amended (except those issued under Regulation I/2) will be considered valid for a period of three (3) months from its expiry date.
11. Measures established vide attached MMN-03/2020 would be reviewed and revised by the Administration, as required, based on the condition of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) across the global trade in the maritime sector.
12. Ship owners/ operators and masters of Panama flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.

Enclosure:

Panama Merchant Marine Notice, MMN-03/2020, Rev. March 2020.

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