



**DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MERCHANT SHIPPING SECRETARIAT
MINISTRY OF PORTS AND SHIPPING**

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Notice to: Port State Control Authorities

Sri Lankan Ship-Owners, Operators and Masters of Sri Lankan Flagged Ships

Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Service Providers

Recognized Organizations

Guidance relating to the ships' statutory certificates, certification of seafarers and contract of employment of Seafarers - Extraordinary measures resulting COVID-19 pandemic

1. Purpose

The actions taken by Governments worldwide as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak pose a serious challenge to the shipping industry. Such actions have directly affected;

- (1) all matters related to ships surveys, inspections, certifications and/or renewal of statutory certificates;
- (2) the continued training of seafarers, revalidate certificates, including medical certificates, and issuance of endorsements attesting recognition of certificates in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for seafarers (STCW Convention), 1978, as amended; and
- (3) service period of Sri Lankan seafarers.

In light of the foregoing, the Merchant Shipping Secretariat has taken following pragmatic and practical approach with regard to statutory certificates of Sri Lankan flagged ships issued by approved recognized organizations on behalf of this administration, and the Sri Lankan seafarers' certificates and contracts of employment which will be expired before 30th April 2020.

2. Adopted Measures

(1) Statutory certificates which will be expired before 30th April 2020 will be granted a general extension till 31st May 2020. Owners or operators of Sri Lankan ships are not required to apply for the extension.

(2) Certificates of Competency (CoC), Certificates of Proficiency (CoP), Certificates of Recognition (CoR) and Sri Lankan Medical certificates which will be expired before 30th April 2020 will be granted a general extension till June 2020. Seafarers are not required to apply for the extension.

(3) Seafarers' service period on board ships may be extended provided that such extension agreed by the seafarer voluntary in writing and such extension should also be set out properly in the contract of employment. All extensions shall be communicated to this administration within two weeks of signing.

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