



Technical Circular

No.: 089/2020

Date: 16th June 2020

Subject: Belize MMN-20-003r1 Reg. Guidance on temporary measures related to Implementation and Enforcement of IMO Instruments due to COVID-19 pandemic

1. The Maritime Administration of Belize, vide Merchant Marine Notice, MMN-20-003r1 has adopted temporary measures related to implementation and enforcement of IMO instruments under force majeure due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Temporary measures adopted by the Administration includes extension of mandatory surveys and audits as well as extension for dry-docking as follows;
 - a. The Administration may grant extension on mandatory surveys and audits (SOLAS, MARPOL, Load Line, ISM, ISPS, MLC, 2006, etc) **up to 31st July 2020**. The extension will be based on submission of request from Recognized Organization (RO) that carried out the relevant certification along with following supporting documents;
 - i. Temporary measures based on procedures and requirements of RO that are to be followed by the vessel in order keep the vessel in good standing during this period.
 - ii. Self-Inspection Checklist from shipowners/ operators in accordance with Administration's MMN-19-006 as an evidence of self-inspection on board confirming the good standings of the vessel.
 - iii. A photo report from the shipowners / operators addressing the actual condition of the vessel. The photo report must include, but not limited to photos of the Main Deck, Mooring Stations, Cargo Spaces, Navigational Bridge, Accommodations and Machinery Spaces.
 - b. The Administration may grant extension of dry-docking **upto 31st July 2020** on receipt of request from the Deputy Registrar of the vessel using the Form TDF-006 along with the shipyard rejection letter due to COVID-19 and written confirmation of acceptance from Recognized Organization.

However, any other request of dry-docking extension which is not related to COVID-19, must comply with Administration's Merchant Marine Notice, MMN-18-001.



- . This Technical Circular and the material contained in it is provided only for the purpose of supplying current information to the reader and not as an advice to be relied upon by any person.
- . While we have taken utmost care to be as factual as possible, readers/ users are advised to verify the exact text and content of the Regulation from the original source/ issuing Authority.

3. The Administration has further advised that all extensions granted in accordance with the provisions of MMN-20-002 & MMN-20-003 can be further extended **until 31st July 2020** based on the previous compliance with all requirements stated as per above para '2 a and 2 b' and submission of the following;
 - a. An affidavit signed by the Owners/ Operators confirming unavailability to comply with the previous date granted and that the situation remains unchanged.
 - b. Written statement from the Recognized Organization confirming not to have any inconvenience with the new extension.
 - c. For those vessels that are entitled to receive an extension beyond 3 months, the Recognized Organization in accordance with the **Guidelines for flag States regarding surveys and renewals of certificates during the COVID-19 pandemic** published by the IMO is to review and approve a Risk Assessment. This Risk Assessment will include mitigation measures.
4. Vessel falling under above detailed temporary measures will be issued with electronic certificates **valid until 31st July 2020** by the authorized RO. However, upon completion of above period and on completion of mandatory surveys and audits in accordance with HSSC Guidelines -2019, any electronic certificate issued under the temporary measures will be replaced by a compliance certificate maintaining the current ship's certification cycle.
5. The temporary measures stated above will be ceased to be valid as soon as the World Health Organization (WHO) declares that the pandemic is finalized, and the risk is over but might be revised and the period extended if the situation remains.
6. Ship owners/ operators and masters of Belize flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.
7. **This Technical Circular supersedes and revokes earlier Technical Circular No. 069/2020, dated 01st May 2020.**

Enclosure: Belize Merchant Marine Notice, MMN-20-003r1, dated 05 June 2020.

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Merchant Marine Notice MMN-20-003r1

To: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, SHIP OWNERS/ISM OPERATORS/RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS/
SHIPPING AGENTS/GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS

Reference: BELIZE (IMMARBE) Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Temporary Measures.

Issuance Date: 29 April 2020

MMN Superseded: 20-002 & 20-003
ISSUE DATE: **29 April 2020**

Revision No.: 1 (5 June 2020)

1. PURPOSE

To inform all concerned parties of the current situation and temporary measures to be taken by the Belize Flag Administration through its Technical Department due to the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

2. BACKGROUND

On December 31st, 2019, the first outbreak known globally as the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) was reported in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of the People's Republic of China.

On January 30th, 2020 the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and issued a set of Temporary Recommendations.

On January 31st, 2020 the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has issued the Circular Letter No. 4204 to provide information and guidance on the precautions to be taken to minimize risks to seafarers, passengers and others on board ships from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This information and guidance are based on recommendations developed by the WHO.



On February 19th, 2020 an addendum to above mentioned circular was issued (Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.1) providing advice on Implementation and Enforcement of Relevant IMO Instruments.

On February 21st, 2020 another addendum (Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.2) was issued containing the Joint Statement IMO-WHO dated February 13th, 2020 on the response to the COVID-19 Outbreak and encourages Member States and International Organizations to disseminate it as widely as possible.

On the 2nd and 5th of March 2020 two more addendums (Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.3 and Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.4 respectively) were issued containing Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases/outbreak on board ships and International Chamber of Shipping Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for ship operators for the protection of the health of seafarers.

On March 11th, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) has officially declared the outbreak of novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19, a pandemic.

After the declaration of a COVID-19 pandemic by the WHO, the IMO had launched the following addendums to the Circular Letter No. 4204. These addendums are listed below:

- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5 rev1](#) (2 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) –Guidance relating to the certification of seafarers and fishing vessel personnel.
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.6](#) (27 March 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) –Preliminary list of recommendations for Governments and relevant national authorities on the facilitation of maritime trade during COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.7](#) (3 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) –Guidance concerning unforeseen delays in the delivery of ships.
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.8](#) (14 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Video meeting with port State control (PSC) regimes (includes joint statement and statements and/or relevant temporary guidance issued by the United States, the Acuerdo de Viña del Mar and the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, Paris and Tokyo MOUs.



- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.9](#) (16 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Joint Statement IMO-WCO on the integrity of the global supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.10](#) (22 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Joint Statement IMO-WHO-ILO on medical certificates of seafarers, ship sanitation certificates and medical care of seafarers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.11](#) (24 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – EC Guidelines on protection of health, repatriation and travel arrangements for seafarers, passengers and other persons on board ships.
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.12](#) (27 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Declaration by Port Authorities Roundtable (PAR) members in view of the global COVID-19 situation.
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.13](#) (5 May 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Recommendations for Governments and relevant national authorities on facilitating the movement of offshore energy sector personnel during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.14](#) (5 May 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Recommended framework of protocols for ensuring safe ship crew changes and travel during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.15](#) (6 May 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Personal protective equipment.
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.16](#) (6 May 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – COVID-19 related guidelines for ensuring a safe shipboard interface between ship and shore-based personnel.
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.17](#) (21 May 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Preparing for post COVID-19 operations: considerations and practicalities for port community systems, single window and other electronic exchange platforms.
- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.18](#) (26 May 2020) – Joint Statement IMO-ICAO-ILO on designation of seafarers, marine personnel, fishing vessel personnel, offshore energy sector personnel, aviation personnel, air cargo supply chain personnel and service provider



personnel at airports and ports as key workers, and on facilitation of crew changes in ports and airports in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.19](#) (2 June 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance for flag States regarding surveys and renewals of certificates during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: Circular Letter No.4202 with its addendums can be revised by accessing the following link:

<http://www.imo.org/en/mediacentre/hottopics/pages/coronavirus.aspx>

3. CONTENT

In view of the outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) causing complications for the regular shipping operation, traveling restrictions and the fast spread extended to several countries, the Belize Administration (IMMARBE) through its Technical Department has taken decisive temporary measures related to Implementation and Enforcement of IMO Instruments due to force majeure.

4. TEMPORARY MEASURES

4.1. IMMARBEL is prepared to grant extension on mandatory surveys and audits (SOLAS, MARPOL, Load Line, ISM, ISPS, MLC, 2006, etc.) up to July 31st, 2020 based on the following:

4.1.1. Requests shall be submitted by the Recognized Organization in charge of the mandatory certification supporting this extension.

4.1.2. Recognized Organizations shall submit temporary measures based on their procedures and requirements to be followed on board in order to keep the vessel in good standings during this period.

4.1.3. Shipowners/Operators shall submit the Self-Inspection Checklist in accordance with our Merchant Marine Notice 19-006 through the Recognized Organization as evidence of the proper self-inspection onboard confirming the good standing of the vessel.

4.1.4. Shipowners/Operators shall submit a photo report addressing the actual condition of the vessel. The photo report must include, but not limited to photos of the Main Deck, Mooring Stations, Cargo Spaces, Navigational Bridge, Accommodations and Machinery Spaces.



4.2. IMMARBE is prepared to grant dry-docking extension up to July 31st, 2020 based on the following:

4.2.1. Request shall be submitted by the Deputy Registrar of the vessel using the form TDF-006.

4.2.2. The request shall contain a shipyard rejection letter due to COVID-19 along with a written confirmation of acceptance issued by the Recognized Organization.

Any request for dry-docking extension not related to the COVID-19 must comply with the parameters stated in our Merchant Marine Notice 18-001.

4.3. All extensions granted in accordance with the previous version of this notice (MMN-20-002 & MMN-20-003) can be further extended until July 31st, 2020 based on the previous compliance with all requirements set in above items 4.1 and 4.2 by submitting the following:

4.3.1. An affidavit signed by owners/operators confirming unavailability to comply with the previous date granted and that the situation remains unchanged.

4.3.2. Written statement from the Recognized Organization confirming not to have any inconvenience with the new extension.

4.3.3. For those vessels that are entitled to receive an extension beyond 3 months, the Recognized Organization in accordance with the **Guidance for flag States regarding surveys and renewals of certificates during the COVID-19 pandemic** published by the IMO shall review and approved a Risk Assessment. This Risk Assessment will include mitigation measures.

Note: These temporary measures will be ceased to be valid as soon as the World Health Organization (WHO) declares that the pandemic is finalized, and the risk is over but might be revised and the period extended if the situation remains.



5. ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES

Any vessel falling under above detailed temporary measures shall be provided with electronic certificates by the authorized RO to be valid until July 31st, 2020 with the intention to keep a valid certificate on board.

Upon completion of above period and as soon as all mandatory surveys/audits can be performed in accordance with Item 5.6 "Revalidation of Certificates" of IMO Resolution A.1140(31) "Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), 2019, any electronic certificate issued under these temporary measures must be replaced by a compliance certificate maintaining the current ship's certification cycle.

6. ACTIONS REQUESTED

The Belize Administration would like to encourage all Shipowners, Operators, Deputy Registrars and Recognized Organizations to take note of the contents of this Notice and to ensure its provisions are enforced on board vessels registered at IMMARBELIZE as deemed necessary.

Any queries related to this Notice should be directed to:

Eng. Eduardo Simon
Technical Manager
IMMARBE HEAD OFFICE
E-mail: technicalofficer@immarbe.com



Merchant Marine Notice MMN-20-003r1

This Merchant Marine Notice is to be brought to the attention of Owners/ISM Operators, Masters and Recognized Organizations and be implemented forthwith.

Look forward for your cooperation and assistance.

The Notice was issued in Belize city, Belize 29/04/2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eduardo Simon".

Eng. Eduardo Simon
Technical Manager
IMMARBE



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Annette Garel".

Annette Garel (Mrs.)
Senior Deputy Registrar
IMMARBE