

**Application: All ship-owners, operators, masters and officers of merchant ships and authorised Classification Societies**

# COVID-19: GUIDANCE

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## SUMMARY

The outbreak and proliferation of COVID-19 has caused major disruption on a global scale. Barbados Maritime is offering this guidance, which we plan to update as and when there are further developments.

## GENERAL GUIDANCE

Sources of information are available to the maritime industry, on the websites shown below:

- International Maritime Organisation
- International Maritime Health Association.
- World Health Organisation
- International Chamber of Shipping

IMO Circular letter No. 4204(Add.4) offers specific guidance for ship operators for the protection of the health of seafarers. This is regularly updated and the latest version can be accessed on the

IMO website. (<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>)

## SEAFARER CERTIFICATES

In the case of the documents below expiring or already expired and renewal is not possible as a consequence of COVID-19 related issues, the following action should be taken:

- (1) STCW Certificate of Competency (CoC): seafarers should contact their CoC issuing authority and request an extension to their existing CoC.
- (2) Barbados Maritime Endorsement: the STCW Compliance Officer will issue a Flag State Endorsement to CoCs that have been extended by their issuing authority, and use the new expiry date on the CoC. The Endorsement application should be made in the usual way. If evidence is submitted that the Endorsement is required to be extended due to COVID-19 related issues, there will be no fee for issue of the Endorsement.
- (3) Medical Certificates: A medical certificate that expires while the seafarer is at sea, shall remain valid until the next port of call where a medical practitioner may be available to issue a new medical certificate, but should not usually exceed three months. Any request for a seafarer without a valid medical certificate to join a ship as a matter of urgency must be cleared first with the Barbados Maritime administration by emailing 'ops@barbadosmaritime.com'.

## MINIMUM SAFE MANNING DOCUMENT

Where COVID-19 is responsible for a seafarer being unable to join or leave a ship, and this impacts on the MSMD, operators should contact BMSR for permission to sail with less than the minimum number of seafarers stated on the MSMD. Contact [ops@barbadosmaritime.com](mailto:ops@barbadosmaritime.com) if this is the case to request a temporary dispensation.

MLC: Ship-owners should check urgently with their insurance providers that the insurance or other financial security covers seafarers for COVID-19 related issues. Coverage should be extended if necessary. This applies to both MLC Standard A2.5.2 and Standard A. 4.2.1.

## SEA Extension

BMSR is aware that travel restrictions in place due to COVID-19 are having profoundly disruptive effects on previously arranged crew changes. BMSR does not need to be contacted where the SEA is extended and

- (a) the extension is agreed between the seafarer and shipowner

- (b) a new SEA is made, or an addendum to the present SEA is signed by both parties
- (c) the period of service does not exceed 12 months (or, if there is a CBA in place, the alternative limit agreed therein)

Should the service period exceed 12 months or whatever limit has been agreed in a CBA, operators should contact [ops@barbadosmaritime.com](mailto:ops@barbadosmaritime.com) for further advice.

### **QUARANTINE & SELF-ISOLATION**

All seafarers are to follow the guidance from relevant health authorities concerning quarantine and self-isolation. Any such isolation/quarantine counts towards the seafarer's service period.

### **SURVEY & CERTIFICATION**

BMSR accepts that ROs may not be able to undertake statutory surveys or audits during the current COVID-19 crisis period. ROs should submit recommendations to BMSR for an extension to the validity of survey certificates and this will be reviewed and authorised on a case by case basis.

### **DELAYS TO DRY DOCKING**

We recommend that owners/operators should submit applications to the RO if an extension is required for a vessel's dry docking, or servicing of critical equipment as required under IMO applicable Convention. Such applications should be submitted before the due date or expiry date of the statutory certificate, to avoid PSC issues.

### **INTERNAL ISM AUDITS**

Please note that Reg. 12.1 of the ISM Code allows up to 15 months between audits, where there are exceptional circumstances. If a Company cannot undertake ISM Audit within the allowable time scale, BMSR will consider extending this period on a case by case basis. Contact [ops@barbadosmaritime.com](mailto:ops@barbadosmaritime.com) for further advice.



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