Subject: U.A.E. FTA Circular No. 06 of 2020 Reg Guidance relating to extension of seafarers certificates due to outbreak of COVID-19

1. In view of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Federal Transport Authority of United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), vide attached Circular No. 06 of 2020, has provided following guidance relating to extension of seafarers certificates:

   a. The expired certificates related to certificates of competency, certificate of proficiency, other certificates issued to seafarers, medical certificates, and endorsements attesting recognition of certificates in accordance with the STCW Convention 1978, as amended, is considered valid for a period of 3 months, starting from 26 March 2020.

   b. Further, the Port State Control will take a practical approach when inspecting seafarer’s certificates and will consider all extensions on these certificates and its endorsements as acceptable when exercising control procedures in accordance with Article X (and Regulation ¼) (Control Procedures) of the STCW of 1978, as amended.

2. Ship owners/ operators and masters of U.A.E. flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.

Enclosure:

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Date: 02/04/2020

Circular No (6) 2020

Concerning Corona virus (COVID-19)  
Guidance relating to extension  
certificates of seafarers

To: All seafarers serving onboard UAE registered ships.
To: All Port Authorities in UAE.
To: All registered UAE ship owners.
To: All ship managers, operators, agents and anyone who engage with seafarer’s services onboard UAE flag ships.
To: all Classification Societies Authorized in UAE.

The Federal Transport Authority for Land and Maritime (FTA) as the competent maritime administration in the United Arab Emirates, and in light of the precautionary measures taken by the FTA to prevent an outbreak of the Corona Virus (COVID-19), and in accordance to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for seafarers 1978, as amended (STCW) Convention, and in order to comply with the relevant international procedures on facilitating maritime trade during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in reference to the IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.55 on the encouragement of member states to extend the validity of seafarers certificates for crews of its flag ships associated with the STCW Convention, as well as their acceptance of extensions to these certificates issued by other countries in accordance with the measures taken worldwide as a result of the outbreak of the Corona Virus (COVID-19).

The FTA as the competent maritime administration in the United Arab Emirates, and in light of the precautionary measures taken by the FTA to prevent an outbreak of the Corona Virus (COVID-19), and in accordance to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for seafarers 1978, as amended (STCW) Convention, and in order to comply with the relevant international procedures on facilitating maritime trade during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in reference to the IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.55 on the encouragement of member states to extend the validity of seafarers certificates for crews of its flag ships associated with the STCW Convention, as well as their acceptance of extensions to these certificates issued by other countries in accordance with the measures taken worldwide as a result of the outbreak of the Corona Virus (COVID-19).

The FTA as the competent maritime administration in the United Arab Emirates, and in light of the precautionary measures taken by the FTA to prevent an outbreak of the Corona Virus (COVID-19), and in accordance to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for seafarers 1978, as amended (STCW) Convention, and in order to comply with the relevant international procedures on facilitating maritime trade during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in reference to the IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.55 on the encouragement of member states to extend the validity of seafarers certificates for crews of its flag ships associated with the STCW Convention, as well as their acceptance of extensions to these certificates issued by other countries in accordance with the measures taken worldwide as a result of the outbreak of the Corona Virus (COVID-19).
Accordingly, FTA decided to consider that the expired certificates related to certificates of competency, certificate of proficiency, other certificates issued to seafarers, medical certificates, and endorsements attesting recognition of certificates in accordance with the STCW Convention 1978, as amended, valid for a period of 3 months, starting from 3/26/2020.

In addition, FTA will work within the port state control system on ships to which the STCW Convention applies, and will take practical approach regarding inspection of all seafarers’ certificates, and consider all extensions on these certificates and its endorsements is acceptable when exercising control procedures in accordance with Article X (and Regulation 1/4) (Control Procedures) of the STCW of 1978, as amended.

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