



# Technical Circular

No.: 042/2020

Date: 06<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Subject: Addendum No. 01 to DGS, Order No. 06 of 2020 Reg Extension to the validity of periodical Surveys and Audits of Indian Registered Ships in view of COVID-19 outbreak**

1. Reference is made to our Technical Circular No. 022/2020, dated 24th March 2020 in respect of DGS Order No. 06 of 2020 regarding extension of the validity of COC /COE/ COP of seafarers, who are currently sailing onboard Indian flagged ships and Indian seafarers sailing on foreign Flag ships, whose COC / COE /COP are about to expire, **for a limited period of one month** taking into account the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The GOI, vide an Addendum No. 01 to DGS Order No. 06 of 2020 (copy attached) has now extended the expiry date of all STCW Certificates (including the training certificates i.e., certificates required under Chapter VI of the STCW) and associated endorsements issued by DGS which are expiring **between 23rd March and 01st October 2020** (both dates inclusive), **for a period of six (6) months** from the expiry date printed/typed on the relevant certificate (COC/COP/COE). However, all those seafarers who meet the eligibility requirements for revalidation may make an application after the lifting of the lockdown period, to the Mercantile Marine Department for revalidation of their certificate of COC/COP/COE.
3. Further, whenever the revalidation of the expired certificate is carried out, the new validity will be issued for a period of five years from the original certificate expiry date.
4. There is no need to approach the DGS for any confirmation email of extension but may retain a copy of the Order (Addendum No. 01 to DGS Order No. 06 of 2020) onboard for the guidance of the officials should it be required.
5. All other requirements of DGS Order No. 06 of 2020 stand as it is.
6. Ship owners/ operators and managers of Indian flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.

**Enclosure:** Addendum No. 01 to DGS Order No. 06 of 2020, dated 03 April 2020.



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पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

Addendum No.1 to DGS Order 6 of 2020

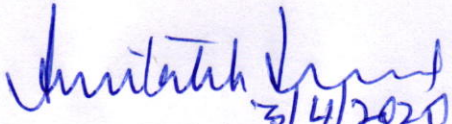
NO: ENG/Misc-29(73)/09	Dated: 03.04.2020
<b>Subject: Regarding Extension to the validity of seafarers' CoC and Statutory Certificates, periodical Surveys and Audits of Indian Registered Ships in view of COVID 19 outbreak.</b>	

1. Many IMO Conventions does not, specifically, allow extension of Surveys, audits and inspections such as Annual / Intermediate/ periodical Statutory Surveys beyond the window period and Docking Surveys beyond the period of 36 months after the last Docking Survey and only allow extension of Renewal surveys by 3-months under special circumstances. Similarly, the STCW 78 Convention as amended does not allow extension of Seafarer Certificates beyond expiry date.
2. Considering the prevailing COVID-19 situation and even without any specific guidance from IMO with regards to extension of survey/inspection/audits and Certification, the Directorate vide DGS Order 6 of 2020, allowed extension of surveys/audits/inspections by RO for a period of 3-months after obtaining undertaking from the Master of the vessel for the satisfactory condition of the vessel and verification of past survey records, as deemed appropriate.
3. However, taking into cognizance IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add. 5 dated 17 March 2020, and also considering that many seafarer due for sign off are unable to do so due to the current situation created by COVID-19 and that their COC/COP/COE may be expiring and that they should not be forced to unnecessarily sail on vessels on the pretext of non-availability of seafarers or sign-off opportunity, the Directorate allowed extension of the validity of COC/COP/COE issued to all those seafarers for a limited period of one month. This extension was applicable to all those who were sailing onboard Indian



flagged vessels and also Indian seafarers who were sailing on foreign Flag ships at the time of issue of the Order by a period of one month only and without any preconditions or submissions of request for the same.

4. Now after taking stock and assessing of the emerging COVID-19 situation, the Directorate hereby extends the expiry date of all STCW Certificates (*includes the training certificates i.e., certificates required under Chapter VI of the STCW*) and associated endorsements issued by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) which are expiring between **23<sup>rd</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020** (both dates inclusive), for a period of 6 (six) months from the expiry date printed/typed on the relevant certificate (COC/COP/COE). However, all those seafarers who meet the eligibility requirements for revalidation may make an application after the lifting of the lockdown period, to the Mercantile Marine Department for revalidation of their certificate of COC/COP/COE. Further, whenever the revalidation of the expired certificate is to be carried out, the new validity shall be issued for a period of five years from the original certificate expiry date.
5. There is no need to approach the DGS for any confirmation email of extension but may retain a copy of this order onboard for the guidance of officials should it be required.
6. The above extension is in the view of the prevailing extraordinary circumstances of the worldwide spread of COVID-19 and the country wide lockdown. The other part of DGS Order 6 of 2020 stand as it is.

  
3/4/2020

(Amitabh Kumar)

Director General of Shipping and  
Additional Secretary to the Govt. of India