



# Technical Circular

No.: 065/2020

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## **Subject: Palau Marine Circular No. 187.1 regarding handling the validity of ship certificates due to outbreak of COVID-19**

1. Palau Maritime Administration has issued Marine Circular No. 187.1 providing instructions on the handling of ship certification and surveys constrains due to the restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic caused by COVID-19.
2. The instructions provided are applicable to statutory surveys and inspections coming **due prior to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020** and for statutory certificates issued under the following Conventions/Codes;
  - a. International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)
  - b. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)
  - c. International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended by the Protocol of 1988 (Load Line)
  - d. International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWMC)
  - e. International Safety Management Code, (ISM)
  - f. International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS); and
  - g. Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC)
  - h. Exemptions Certificates issued by the Palau Ship Registry Administrator
3. Recognized Organizations (ROs) have been advised to ensure that all statutory certificates remain valid using remote surveys or visits whenever is possible. However, in those cases that a remote survey or visit are not possible to be carried out, **the ROs are authorized to maintain the validity of the statutory certificate for up to three months.**
4. A record of ships receiving extensions to surveys or certificates will be maintained by the Recognized Organizations and will be included in the survey status of the vessel for future reference.
5. When a survey or inspections is required to confirm the rectification of deficiencies of a minor nature, the Administrator has no objection to an alternative evidence-based proposal which is acceptable to the RO.
6. **Extension of Dry Dock surveys:**
  - a. For extension of dry dock survey, provided that there is evidence suggesting best efforts have been made to secure dry-dock space, the Administration will consider



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**extensions to intermediate and special dry dock survey for a period of three months.** Further extensions will be reviewed case by case including the submission of supporting evidence.

- b. Application for the extension of dry dock survey must be submitted, indicating the reason for the extension, letter of confirmation from the shipyard, and non-objection letter from the RO confirming that the vessel is with no major structural deficiencies or damage at the time of the request.
- c. All statutory surveys are to be completed as far as practicable and possible while afloat, leaving only the minimum pending items to be checked in dry dock survey. Any minor deficiencies can be recorded as Conditions of Class, or Statutory Condition, as appropriate, with due date until dry-docking. Major deficiencies must be rectified.

**7. Installation of Ballast Water Management System:**

- a. Ships experiencing problems installing and commissioning Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) are to approach the Administration in order to seek guidance.
- b. Vessels to maintain an approved plan for conducting D-1 ballast water exchange and the same will need to be maintained until the BWMS system can be properly installed for D-2 Compliance.

**8. Annual service of life saving appliances and firefighting equipment:**

Annual servicing of life saving appliances and firefighting equipment **with due date before July 2020, are allowed for an immediate extension valid for two (2) months** subject to the agreement of the Recognized Organization. Further extensions will be reviewed case by case including the submission of supporting evidence.

- 9. Ship owners/ operators and masters of Palau flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.

**Enclosure:** Palau Marine Circular 187.1

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# Palau International Ship Registry



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## MARINE CIRCULAR 187.1

**To: ALL SHIPOWNERS, MANAGERS, MASTERS, AND REGISTRATION OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS.**

**Subject: HANDLING THE VALIDITY OF SHIP CERTIFICATES DUE TO COVID-19**

### 1. Reference

- 1.1 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 the COVID-19 pandemic*

### 2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this Marine Circular is to inform ship owners, managers, and operators on the handling of ship certifications and surveys constrains due to the restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic caused by COVID-19.
- 2.2 This Marine Circular will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

### 3. Applicability

- 3.1 This Marine Circular is applicable to all vessels registered to which have statutory surveys and inspections coming due prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

### 4. General Requirements

- 4.1 The Republic of Palau recognizes that due to the COVID-19 pandemic there will be difficulties encountered when scheduling docking or repairs facilities for statutory survey requirements, necessitating an extension of docking and other surveys. It is also recognized that local quarantine measures may prevent surveyors, superintendents, and technicians from attending the ships.
- 4.2 Recognized Organizations are requested to contact the Palau Ship Registry Administrator in the case that a vessel's scheduled surveys and inspections cannot be carried out because of direct effect from the COVID-19. Recognized Organizations shall ensure that all statutory certificates remain valid using remote surveys or visits whenever is possible. However, in those cases that a remote survey or visit are not possible to be carried out, the RO



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is authorized to maintain the validity of the statutory certificate for up to three months.

- 4.3 Recognized Organizations must maintain a record of ships receiving extensions to surveys or certificates which should be included in the survey status of the vessel for future reference.
- 4.4 When a survey or inspections is required to confirm the rectification of deficiencies of a minor nature, the Palau Ship Administrator has no objection to an alternative evidence-based proposal which is acceptable to the RO.
- 4.5 It is highly requested the cooperation and prompt communication to the Palau Ship Registry Administrator in case of facing difficulty or inconveniences during this time to enable us to properly assist the RO and the owner promptly.

## 5. Certificates covered by this Marine Circular

- 5.1 This Marine Circular provides guidance on maintaining validity of statutory certificates issued under the following conventions:
  - 5.1.1 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)
  - 5.1.2 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)
  - 5.1.3 International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended by the Protocol of 1988 (Load Line)
  - 5.1.4 International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWMC)
  - 5.1.5 International Safety Management Code, (ISM)
  - 5.1.6 International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS); and
  - 5.1.7 Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC)
  - 5.1.8 Exemptions Certificates issued by the Palau Ship Registry Administrator



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## 6. Extension of Dry dock surveys

- 6.1 For extension of dry dock survey, provided that there is evidence suggesting best efforts have been made to secure dry-dock space, the Palau Flag Administrator will consider extensions to intermediate and special dry dock survey for a period of three months. Further extensions will be reviewed case by case including the submission of supporting evidence.
- 6.2 Application for the extension of dry dock survey must be submitted, indicating the reason for the extension, letter of confirmation from the shipyard, and non-objection letter from the RO confirming that the vessel is with no major structural deficiencies or damage at the time of the request.
- 6.3 All statutory surveys must have been progressed as far as practicable and possible while afloat, leaving only the minimum pending items to be checked in dry dock survey. Any minor deficiencies can be recorded as Conditions of Class, or Statutory Condition, as appropriate, with due date until dry-docking. Major deficiencies must be rectified.

## 7. Installation of Ballast Water Management System

- 7.1 Ships experiencing problems installing and commissioning Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) are to approach the Palau Ship Registry Administrator in order to seek guidance whether the vessel cannot enter a dry dock for its installation or if the BWMS is not able to reach the vessel due to quarantine restrictions.
- 7.2 Vessel's are to maintain an approved plan for conducting D-1 ballast water exchange and the same will need to be maintained until the BWMS system can be properly installed for D-2 Compliance.

## 8. Annual service of life saving appliances and firefighting equipment

- 8.1 Annual service of life saving appliances and firefighting equipment's with due date before July 2020, are allowed for an immediate extension valid for two (2) months subject to the agreement of the Recognized Organization. Further extensions will be reviewed case by case including the submission of supporting evidence.



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## 9. Contact

9.1 Any inquiries concerning the subject for this Marine Circular should be directed to the Palau Ship Registry Administrator at [technical@palaureg.com](mailto:technical@palaureg.com)

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