



# Technical Circular

No.: 099/2020

Date: 07<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## **Subject: Panama Merchant Marine Notice No. MMN-07-2020 Reg Request for Postponement/ Extension of Statutory Certification and Services due to outbreak of COVID-19**

1. Panama Maritime Authority has issued updated Merchant Marine Notice No. MMN-07-2020 providing following interim measures in respect of postponement/ extension of statutory certification and services due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
2. Recognized Organizations are allowed to:
  - A. Postpone/Extend all surveys (except bottom surveys), audits and inspections **for a period of three (3) months** from certificate or window expiry date, subject to a subsequent revalidation or reinstatement of the correspondent certificate.

Accordingly, the Recognized Organization (RO) are required to ensure that

- a. All statutory certificates remains valid using remote surveys or visits whenever possible. However, in those cases that a remote survey or visits are not possible to be carried out, the RO is authorized to maintain the validity of the statutory certificate for the grace period as mentioned.
  - b. All records justifying each case according to the circumstances are to be kept and remain available to any Port State Control Authority and as well as Panama Administration.
  - c. Furthermore, in case of MLC remote inspections, the Recognized Organization is to ensure that the MLC financial securities remain valid during the extended period (see Standard A2.5.2 and Standard A4.2).
- B. **Equipment Services:** services and expiry date of life saving appliances, navigation and firefighting equipment are allowed for an immediate extension **valid for three (3) months** subject to the agreement of the Recognized Organization.

Extensions required for a longer period will be granted on a case by case basis, according to the circumstances, provided that supporting evidence of each case is presented to [extensions@segumar.com](mailto:extensions@segumar.com) or any Segumar Office.

- C. Ship-owners/operators of ships currently holding a Conditional Certificate related to a deficiency or damage onboard, are required to contact the Administration if the necessary malfunction, repair or administrative related matter is not possible to rectify, carry out or be provided. An email along with supporting evidence of each

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. 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.

case is to be sent to [conditionals@segumar.com](mailto:conditionals@segumar.com). Ensure that Recognized Organization responsible to issue the correspondent certificates is in agreement with the conditions on board.

- D. **The validity of all statutory certificates** (except for Conditional Certificates) are **extended exceptionally for a period of three (3) months**, including among them:
- a. Maritime Labour Certificate (MLC, 2006)
  - b. Safety Management Certificate (SMC)
  - c. Document of Compliance (DOC)
  - d. International Tonnage Certificate (ITC-69)
  - e. International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC)
  - f. Exemption Certificates
  - g. Certificate of Registry (Patente)
  - h. Radio License
- E. Request for authorization towards postponement of ISPS verification **for three (3) months** is to be made thru the E-Segumar platform on the following website link: <http://certificates.amp.gob.pa/certificates>
- F. Colour copy of original signed Ships Registry Certificates (Patent) and Radio Station License issued by the Administration are considered valid for **three (3) months**, from its issue date.
- G. Soft copy of Exemption certificates and Minimum Safe Manning Certificates for MODU/MOU issued by the Administration are considered valid for **three (3) months**, from its issue date.
- H. The postponement/Extension of the inspection of the outside ships' bottom will continue to be processed on a case by case basis as per the guidelines provided in Merchant Marine Circular No.204. Inspections afloat using remote inspection techniques might be allowed under exceptional circumstances. Extensions beyond **three (3) months** may require a Risk Assessment approved by the RO, including mitigation measures.
3. Ship owners/ operators and masters of Panama flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.
4. **This Technical Circular supersedes and revokes earlier Technical Circular No. 080/2020 dated 15 May 2020.**

**Enclosure:**

Panama Merchant Marine Notice No. –MMN- 07/2020 (Rev.-22 May 2020).

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# Merchant Marine **Notice**

Panama Maritime Authority  
General Directorate of Merchant Marine  
Department of Control and Compliance

**F-410  
(DCCM)  
V.01**

## **COVID-19 Request for Postponement - Extension of Statutory Certification & Services**

MMN-07/2020

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**This Merchant Marine Notice has the purpose to inform all ships' owners/operators, Recognized Organizations and other interested parties on how to proceed in case of request for postponement-extension of statutory certification & services.**

As the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of the novel coronavirus a pandemic, it is vital that all governments remind that around 90% of global trade is transported by commercial shipping, which moves the world's food, energy and commercial goods (among them medical supplies).

It is our intention to contribute to keep maritime trade moving in this time of global crisis, in particular by facilitating the postponement-extension of all statutory certification, all survey services including ISM Code/ISPS Code audits and inspections related to MLC, 2006, in addition this is also applicable to Annual Safety Inspection (ASI) established by our flag, these exceptional measures are taken essentially in response to the current shut-downs, lock downs, and travel restrictions, implemented by several States worldwide.

**The Panama Maritime Authority, committed to preserve the safety on board and the prevention of oil pollution allows its Recognized Organizations to act accordingly in the following scenarios during March and August 2020:**

1. **Statutory Certificates, inspections, and audits:** Exceptionally postpone/extend all surveys (except bottom surveys, please refer to paragraph 8 below), audits and inspections for a period of three (3) months from certificate or window expiry date, subject to a subsequent revalidation or reinstatement of the correspondent certificate, therefore:
  - a. The RO 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 visits are not possible to be carried out,

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Albrook, Panama City  
Republic of Panama  
Tel: (507) 501-5355  
E-mail: mmc@amp.gob.pa

 Panama Ship Registry  
 @ShipPanama

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the RO is authorized to maintain the validity of the statutory certificate for the grace period aforementioned. All records justifying each case according to the circumstances shall be kept and remain available to any Port State Control Authority and as well as this Administration.

- b. Furthermore, in case of MLC remote inspections, the Recognized Organization should ensure that the MLC financial securities remain valid during the extended period (see Standard A2.5.2 and Standard A4.2).

It is highly requested the cooperation and prompt communication to this Administration in case of facing any difficulty or inconveniences during this time, to enabling us to act as quick as possible with the required assistance (see contacts table below).

2. **Equipment Services:** services and expiry date of life saving appliances, navigation and firefighting equipment's are allowed for an immediate extension valid for three (3) months subject to the agreement of the Recognized Organization. Extensions required for a longer period will be granted on a case by case basis, according to the circumstances, provided that supporting evidence of each case is presented to [extensions@segumar.com](mailto:extensions@segumar.com) or the Segumar Office of your convenience (see contacts table below).
3. **Conditional Certificates and Malfunctions on board:** Ship-owners/operators of those ships currently holding a Conditional Certificate related to a deficiency or damage onboard, shall contact us if the necessary malfunction, repair or administrative related matter is not possible to rectify, carry out or be provided; an email along with supporting evidence of each case shall be sent to [conditionals@segumar.com](mailto:conditionals@segumar.com) or the Segumar Office of your convenience (see contacts table below). Please make sure the Recognized Organization responsible to issue the correspondent certificates is agree with the conditions on board.
4. The validity of all statutory certificates (except for Conditional Certificates) are extended exceptionally for three (3) months, including among them:
  - a. Maritime Labour Certificate (MLC, 2006)
  - b. Safety Management Certificate (SMC)
  - c. Document of Compliance (DOC)



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- d. International Tonnage Certificate (ITC-69)
  - e. International Ballast Water Management Certificate (IBWMC)
  - f. Exemption Certificates
  - g. Certificate of Registry (Patente)
  - h. Radio License
5. For ISPS authorization you should apply through the E-segumar platform to postpone the verification for three (3) months through the following website link: <http://certificates.amp.gob.pa/certificates>. To more information please, refer to paragraph 9 in our Merchant Marine Notice MMN-002/2020, posted on March 24, 2020.
6. Color copy of original signed Ships Registry Certificates (Patent) and Radio Station License issued by this Administration are considered valid for three (3) months, from its issue date. However, since 14 April 2020 these documents are issued in electronic form. Please contact [cvaldes@amp.gob.pa](mailto:cvaldes@amp.gob.pa) and [jmarauz@amp.gob.pa](mailto:jmarauz@amp.gob.pa) in case of assistance is required.
7. Soft copy Exemption Certificates and Minimum Safe Manning Certificates for MODU/MOU issued by this Administration are considered valid for three (3) months, from the certificate issue date.
8. The postponement/Extension of the inspection of the outside ships' bottom will continue to be processed on a case by case basis. Please follow the guidelines provided in our Merchant Marine Circular No.204. Inspections afloat using remote inspection techniques might be allowed under exceptional circumstances. Extensions beyond three (3) months may require a Risk Assessment approved by the RO, including mitigation measures.

The following table provides the contact email addresses of our Segumar offices posted around the world:

Americas	
SEGUMAR Panama	<a href="mailto:extensions@segumar.com">extensions@segumar.com</a> , <a href="mailto:conditionals@segumar.com">conditionals@segumar.com</a> , <a href="mailto:authorizations@segumar.com">authorizations@segumar.com</a> , <a href="mailto:mlc@segumar.com">mlc@segumar.com</a>
SEGUMAR Miami	<a href="mailto:segumar.miami@segumar.com">segumar.miami@segumar.com</a>

PanCanal Building  
Albrook, Panama City  
Republic of Panama  
Tel: (507) 501-5355  
E-mail: [mmc@amp.gob.pa](mailto:mmc@amp.gob.pa)

 Panama Ship Registry  
 @ShipPanama





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SEGUMAR Houston	<a href="mailto:offshore@segumar.com">offshore@segumar.com</a>
<b>Asia</b>	
SEGUMAR Tokyo	<a href="mailto:segumar@panaconsul-tokyo.com">segumar@panaconsul-tokyo.com</a>
SEGUMAR Imabari	<a href="mailto:segumar.imabari@segumar.com">segumar.imabari@segumar.com</a> <a href="mailto:rchacon@segumarimabari.jp">rchacon@segumarimabari.jp</a>
SEGUMAR Seoul	<a href="mailto:segumarseoul@segumar.com">segumarseoul@segumar.com</a>
SEGUMAR Busan	<a href="mailto:segumarbusan@segumar.com">segumarbusan@segumar.com</a>
SEGUMAR Singapore	<a href="mailto:segumar.sg@segumar.com">segumar.sg@segumar.com</a>
SEGUMAR Shanghai	<a href="mailto:segumar.shanghai@segumar.com">segumar.shanghai@segumar.com</a>
SEGUMAR Manila	<a href="mailto:segumar.manila@segumar.com">segumar.manila@segumar.com</a>
<b>Europe</b>	
SEGUMAR Piraeus	<a href="mailto:segumarp@segumar.com">segumarp@segumar.com</a> ;
SEGUMAR Istanbul	<a href="mailto:segumarist@segumar.com">segumarist@segumar.com</a>
SEGUMAR London	<a href="mailto:segumar.uk@segumar.com">segumar.uk@segumar.com</a>
<b>Middle East</b>	
SEGUMAR Dubai	<a href="mailto:segumar.dubai@segumar.com">segumar.dubai@segumar.com</a>

10. The implementation of these instructions is due to the urgency related to Covid-19. However, as soon as the crises overcome, and restrictions imposed by each State have raised, we will return to our regular procedures, and a review of the new mechanisms implemented will take place. The Administration will continue evaluating the current worldwide situation due to the Covid-19. Further extensions (re-extension) might be granted on a case by case basis and after throughout evaluation of the circumstances beyond the control of the operator, upon relevant evidence is provided.



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11. We recommend all interested parties to continue monitoring the situation by consulting the Marine Notices and procedures communicated by the WHO, the IMO, and each Recognized Organization.

**May 22, 2020** – paragraph 1 amended and sub-paragraph b) added, paragraphs 2,3, 4 and 11 amended.

**May, 2020** – Deleted of letter (d) of paragraph 4 and changed of numerical sequence of paragraph 8 to 5 regarding ISPS certification.

**April, 2020** – paragraphs 2, 3, and 5 amended, letters h) and i) added in paragraph 4.

**April, 2020** – In point 1, content in letter a) amended and content in letter b) deleted; Point 4 letter h) deleted due to ambiguity; point 5 split in 5) original signed and 6) soft copy of MSMC for MODU/MOU added, next points renumbered and last note add WHO and IMO.

**March, 2020.**

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Notice or any other request should be directed to:

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Directorate General of Merchant Marine  
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501 5348  
(507) 501 5350

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[isps@segumar.com](mailto:isps@segumar.com)

Website:

<https://panamashipregistry.com/marine-category/marine-notices/>