



Technical Circular

No.: 142/2020

Date: 14th December 2020

Subject: Belize – Seafarers with invalid/ expired Contracts or Seafarers Employment Agreement (SEA)

1. The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 requires that the maximum duration of service periods of Seafarers onboard is to be less than 12 months.
2. However, due to lock down situation and travel restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 pandemic, in few cases, seafarers have been onboard ships for a period exceeding the maximum duration of service onboard as required by MLC, 2006.
3. In view of above, Maritime Administration of Belize (IMMARBE) vide Merchant Marine Notice- MMN-20-005 has informed that when the change of crew is not possible due to restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 pandemic, a prompt notification must be submitted to IMMARBE's Head Office with following info;
 - a. Proven evidences of all unsuccessfully attempts for repatriation.
 - b. Published local restrictions.
 - c. Vessel's itinerary.
 - d. Action plan taken in order to ensure the repatriation in a short period.
 - e. Risk assessment in order to mitigate the fatigue due to long period inboard.
4. The notification along with above information is to be submitted by owner/ operator to IMMARBE Technical Department at technicalofficer@immarbe.com, technicalofficer2@immarbe.com
5. Compliance to above requirements will be verified by Administration/ Recognized Organization. Where it is noted that seafarers are intentionally kept onboard with invalid/ expired Contracts or SEA, owners/ operators will be subject to disciplinary action by the Administration.
6. Ship owners/ operators and masters of Belize flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.

Enclosure: IMMARBE Merchant Marine Notice, MMN-20-005.



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Merchant Marine Notice **MMN-20-005**

WARNING to all Owners/Operators/Crew of Belize Flagged Vessels caught intentionally with seafarers onboard with invalid/expired Contracts or Seafarers Employment of Agreement (SEA)

TO: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, SHIP OWNERS/ISM OPERATORS/RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS/SHIPPING AGENTS/GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS

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PURPOSE

The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) for the purposes of this Merchant Marine Notice reminds all interested parties that:

1. The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 in its standard A 2.5 “Repatriation” specifically in its regulation 2(b) states that the maximum duration of service periods on board shall be less than 12 months.
2. On March 11th, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) has officially declared the outbreak of novel coronavirus disease, COVID 19, a pandemic.
3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic a humanitarian crisis is taking place at sea due to restrictions imposed by several governments including restrictions on travel, embarkation and disembarkation in ports, quarantine measures, reductions in available flights and limits on the issuing of visas and passports.
4. There are some seafarers have now been on board their ships for a period exceeding the maximum duration of service onboard as expressed in above item 1 in contravention with the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

CONTENT

Any Belize Flagged Vessel that it is caught intentionally with seafarers onboard with invalid/expired Contracts or Seafarers Employment of Agreement (SEA) will be subject to disciplinary actions in accordance with regulations 7 (Fines) and 8 (Cancellation of Registration or Documents) of the Statutory Instrument 156 of 1999 – Disciplinary Regulations.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

When the change of crew is not possible a prompt notification must be submitted to IMMARBE’s Head Office with:



1. Proven evidences of all unsuccessfully attempts for repatriation.
2. Published local restrictions.
3. Vessel's itinerary.
4. Action plan taken in order to ensure the repatriation in a short period.
5. Risk assessment in order to mitigate the fatigue due to long period onboard.

The notification along with above requirements must be submitted by owner/operator to IMMARBE Technical Department (technicalofficer@immarbe.com, technicalofficer2@immarbe.com).

ACTIONS REQUESTED

This Administration would like to encourage all Shipowners, Operators, Deputy Registrar and Recognized Organizations to take note of the contents of this Notice and to ensure its provisions are enforced on board vessels registered at IMMARBE.

Look forward for your cooperation and assistance.

Kind regards;

The Notice was issued in Belize city, Belize 03/12/2020

Eng. Eduardo Simon
Technical Manager
IMMARBE



AnnetteGarel(Mrs.)
Senior Deputy Registrar
IMMARBE