



Technical Circular

No.: 022/2022

Date: 25th March 2022

Subject: Panama – Repatriation of Seafarers due to the situation in Ukraine.

1. In view of the events in Ukraine and taking into account the views of the Maritime Transport Workers Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU – ITF affiliate) and guidance of Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Tokyo MoU, the Panama Maritime Authority vide MMN-04-2022 has informed regarding flexible and pragmatic approach of the Administration on the issue of extending periods of service of seafarers on board ships in these circumstances.
2. Administration requires that the port States guidelines to deal with the current situation of the Ukrainian seafarers should be taken into account by the shipowners and operators in respect of the extensions of seafarers' employment agreements (SEA) for seafarers who wish to remain on board and in the cases of seafarers who are willing to return home at the end of their employment contract, for which the shipowners must provide tickets to friendly neighboring countries in the region with enough money for land transport where flights are not available.
3. In case the maximum duration of the seafarers' employment contract (SEA) has expired and an authorization is required for the extension by the flag State, a request must be sent to the email seaextension@amp.gob.pa. This will only be authorized **on a case-by-case basis** to address the emergency situation that does not allow seafarers to return home and only with the consent of the seafarer.
4. Further, the Administration has reiterated that any extension granted would require an addendum to the seafarer employment agreement on the same terms and conditions as the underlying contract and must be agreed to by both parties.
5. With regards to extension of endorsements of certificates for Ukrainian seafarers, request for extension is to be made by submitting following to the Administration:
 - a. Email requesting the extension of the Certificate, including the particulars of the vessel, crew name and position on board.
 - b. For the Extension of Certificates issued under regulation I/10, to submit the Authorization letter of extension of the issuance Country and copy of the Home Country License. The extension will be given according the letter of authorization of the Issuance's Country CoC's or CoP's.

- c. Crew List.
 - d. Copy of the Registry certificate.
6. Owners/ operators and masters of Panama flagged vessels are advised to be guided by above.

Enclosure:

- 1. Panama MMN-04-2022

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Merchant Marine **Notice**

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

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

REPATRIATION OF SEAFARERS DUE TO THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

No: **MMN-04/2022**

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Notice is to inform that due to the events in Ukraine and taking into account the views of the Maritime Transport Workers Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU – ITF affiliate) and guidance of Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Tokyo MoU, the Panama Maritime Administration has considered it necessary to apply flexibility and pragmatism on the issue of extending periods of service on board ships in these circumstances, taking into account the difficulties that may be encountered in the repatriation of Ukrainian seafarers.
2. As both MoUs have indicated, it is acknowledged that the effect on repatriation may not be limited to Ukrainian seafarers but may impact other seafarers caught up in the present situation. The Tokyo MoU noted that the payment of salaries under the MLC 2006 may be difficult due to the impact on the banking system in Ukraine and the wider region. Alternative arrangements may need to be put in place to pay seafarers and facilitate the payment of any allotments to dependents.
3. This Administration considers it appropriate to inform that the port States have issued guidelines to deal with the current situation of the Ukrainian seafarers, which should be taken into account by the shipowners and operators regarding of the extensions seafarers' employment agreements (SEA) of seafarers who wish to remain on board and in the cases of seafarers who are willing to return home at the end of their employment contract, for which the shipowners must provide tickets to friendly neighboring countries in the region with enough money for land transport where flights are not available.
4. In case the maximum duration of the seafarers' employment contract (SEA) has expired and an authorization is required for the extension by the flag State, a request must be sent to the email seaextension@amp.gob.pa. This will only be authorized on a case-by-case basis to address the emergency situation that does not allow seafarers to return home and only with the consent of the seafarer.

5. This Maritime Administration reiterates that any extension granted would require an addendum to the seafarer employment agreement on the same terms and conditions as the underlying contract and must be agreed to by both parties.
6. **Extension of Seafarers Certificates of Endorsement (STCW)**
 - 6.1. For the extension of endorsements of certificates for Ukrainian seafarers, the requirements set forth in paragraph 5 of the [Merchant Marine Notice MMN-03/2020: "Coronavirus and Seafarers employment agreement and Certificates"](#).
7. Please contact the Regional Documentation Offices of your convenience to the following e-mail addresses:

America	
Certification Department Panama	certification@amp.gob.pa
Labour Department Panama	seaextension@amp.gob.pa
RDO Miami	regionalmiami@amp.gob.pa
RDO Houston	offshore@segumar.com
Asia	
RDO Shanghai	info.pmshanghai@amp.gob.pa
RDO Seoul	regionalofficeseoul@amp.gob.pa
RDO Manila	infoampmanila@amp.gob.pa
RDO Mumbai	ord.mumbai@amp.gob.pa
RDO Imabari	segumar@segumarimabari.jp
RDO Tokyo	crew-license@panaconsul-tokyo.com
RDO Singapore	segumar.sg@segumar.com
RDO Dubai	segumar.dubai@segumar.com
Europe	
RDO Pireus	ampgreece@amp.gob.pa
RDO London	amplondon@amp.gob.pa



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8. Reference documents:

- 8.1. **MTWTU's Official Statement.** <https://mtwtu.org.ua/en/news/mtwtus-official-statement-on-crew-change-of-ukrainian-seafarers>
- 8.2. [Circular letter 2022-3 \(March 8, 2022\) of Tokyo MOU Secretariat.](#)
- 8.3. [PSC Circular 101 \(March 2, 2022\) Paris MOU.](#)
- 8.4. [Merchant Marine Notice MMN-03/2020 "Coronavirus and Seafarers employment agreement and Certificates".](#)

March, 2022 – New.

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

Maritime Labour Affairs Department / SEGUMAR
General Directorate of Seafarers
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

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E-mail: labormar@amp.gob.pa / msm@segumar.com

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