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Circular Letter No.4230  
24 March 2020

To: All IMO Members  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Panama**

The Permanent Mission of Panama sent the attached communication, dated 13 March 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

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**Dirección General de la Gente de Mar**

## ANNEX

**Nota No. DGGM-TIT-113-2020**  
Panamá, 13 de marzo de 2020

**Señores**  
**Gente de Mar de la República de Panamá**  
**E. S. D.**

Respetados Señores:

La Dirección General de la Gente de Mar de la Autoridad Marítima de Panamá, consciente de las instrucciones y recomendaciones emanadas por el Ministerio de Salud (MINSA) en atención a la pandemia del corona virus (COVID-19) y las medidas de mitigación que han de ser adoptadas por las instituciones públicas, le comunicamos a la ciudadanía en general que a partir de la fecha todas las licencias de la gente de mar con licencia de aguas nacionales con fecha de vencimiento desde el mes de enero del 2020, se le concederá una prórroga por tres (3) meses a partir de la fecha de la presente Nota.

Lo anterior, con el objetivo que las personas que se encuentran en estado de renovación por vencimiento no tengan que asistir a las jornadas de capacitación para operadores de lanchas de 2da clase hasta 12 metros, patrones de pesca de 2da clase hasta 12 metros y marineros, las cuales fueron pospuestas por temas de evitar aglomeraciones e igualmente por los Centros de Formación Marítima que no estarán habilitados para las respectivas capacitaciones.

Este comunicado estará sujeto a cambios en la medida que se vaya analizando la condición en que se encuentra el país con respecto a la pandemia del corona virus (COVID-19).

Atentamente.

  
**Cap. Juan E. Maltez P.**  
Director General



SC/gamt  




**AUTORIDAD MARÍTIMA DE PANAMÁ**  
**(PANAMÁ MARITIME AUTHORITY)**  
**DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MARINA MERCANTE**  
**(GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MERCHANT MARINE)**  
**DEPARTAMENTO DE CONTROL Y CUMPLIMIENTO**  
**(DEPARTMENT OF CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE)**

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(DCCM)  
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**Coronavirus and Seafarers employment agreement and Certificates**

**No.: MMN-03/2020**

**February, 2020.**

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Notice is to inform that with the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a state of global health emergency, causing massive uncertainty across the global trade, resulting in additional implication for the regular shipping operations. The coronavirus outbreak has spread rapidly extended further to several countries.
2. The effects of this outbreak are having a repercussion with the seafarers whose Certificate/s have expired or will expire soon, where the companies are facing problems because their planned disembarkation cannot be safely completed in ports affected by the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus.
3. As it has been determined with extensive travel restrictions to and within infected and non-infected countries, moving personnel has become more difficult, resulting in harsh scrutinizing seafarers who have recently visited affected areas.
4. This Administration considers appropriate to inform how to proceed in the following scenarios of crew change:
  - 4.1. If the seafarers employment agreement expires or will expire soon, an exception to Standard A2.4.3 “Entitlement to leave”, and Standard A2.5.1.2(b) “Repatriation” of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006, will be granted in order to extend it.
  - 4.2. In those cases where the change of crew, due to expiration of the Certificate/s, cannot be carried out due to the Corona Virus outbreak, this Administration shall consider appropriate the issuance of an Extension or Dispensation Letter evaluating the nature of the case.
5. In this sense, this Administration has determined the following instructions for the issuance of the correspondent letter:

**5.1. Extension of Seafarers employment Agreement**

This letters to extend the Seafarers Employment Agreement shall be issued by the SEGUMAR Offices, and shall submit the following requirements:

- a) Email requesting the extension of the Certificate, including the particulars of the vessel, crew name and position on board,
- b) Copy of the Seafarer Employment Agreement (SEA) of each seafarer requesting the extension

- c) Crew List,
- d) Copy of the Registry certificate

Be informed that the given exception letter according to this Marine Notice will be for a period of three (3) months to continue being engaged f under their seafarers' employment agreements beyond a period of 11 months. The granted extension will be reviewed considering the condition of the COVID-19.

It is understood that at the end of the extension provided by this Administration, all seafarers will have the right to have their annual leave with pay, and to be duly repatriated, as prescribed by the Standard A2.4.3, and Standard A2.5.1.2(b) of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended.

### **5.2. Extension of Seafarers Certificates including Certificates of Endorsement**

This letter shall be issued for the certificates issued by the Panama Maritime Authority under the Regulation I/2 and I/10 of the STCW'78 Convention, as amended. This letters shall be issued by the SEGUMAR Offices, and shall submit the following requirements:

- e) Email requesting the extension of the Certificate, including the particulars of the vessel, crew name and position on board,
- f) For extension of certificate under regulation I/2, Copy of the Certificate/s issued by the Panama Maritime Authority.
- g) For the Extension of Certificates issued under regulation I/10, shall submitted the Authorization letter of extension of the issuance Country and copy of the Home Country License.
- h) Crew List,
- i) Copy of the Registry Certificate

Be informed that the given extension according to this Marine Notice will be for a period of three (3) months from the date of expiration of the certificate/s, and reviewed whether the granted extension shall require additional period considering the condition of the (COVID-19).

### **5.3. Dispensation Letter**

If any Third Party member of the STCW'78 Convention, who issued the Seafarers Certificate has not extended it due to Corona Virus outbreak, this Administration shall grant a Dispensation Letter to the capacity (rank) under the requirements stated in the Merchant Marine Circular No. 175 and the form established by the circular MMC-191 "[Crew Dispensation Form](#)" shall be submitted along with the following documents:

- a) Copy of the Certificate/s,
- b) Crew List,
- c) Copy of the Registry Certificate.

6. Please contact the SEGUMAR Offices of your convenience to the following e-mail addresses:

| <b>America</b>    |  |
|-------------------|--|
| SEGUMAR Panama    | <a href="mailto:msm@segumar.com">msm@segumar.com</a>   |
| SEGUMAR Miami     | <a href="mailto:segumar.miami@segumar.com">segumar.miami@segumar.com</a>   |
| 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><br><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:segumarpg@segumar.com">segumarpg@segumar.com</a> ;   |
| SEGUMAR Istanbul  | <a href="mailto:segumarist@segumar.com">segumarist@segumar.com</a>   |
| SEGUMAR Dubai     | <a href="mailto:segumar.dubai@segumar.com">segumar.dubai@segumar.com</a>   |
| SEGUMAR London    | <a href="mailto:segumar.uk@segumar.com">segumar.uk@segumar.com</a>   |

7. If the Medical Certificates expires, it shall continue in force in this exceptional circumstance for a period of three (3) months from its expiry date (MLC, 2006 Standard A1.2.9).
8. Certificates of proficiency issued by an authorized Maritime Training Center of Panama in accordance with the regulation V and VI of the STCW amended (except those issued under regulation I/2) will be considered valid for a period of three (3) months from its expiry date.
9. Finally, this measure established would be revised accordingly to the condition of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) across the global trade in the maritime sector.

***March, 2020 – Coronavirus Prevention Measures  
February, 2020 – Coronavirus Prevention Measure.***

***Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any other request should be directed to:  
Certification Department / SEGUMAR  
General Directorate of Seafarers / General Directorate of Merchant Marine  
Panama Maritime Authority***

***Phone: (507) 501-5062 / 5010***

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