

SHIPPING NOTICE 03/2020

COVID-19: CERTIFICATION OF SEAFARERS ON BOARD CAYMAN ISLANDS SHIPS.

To: IMO Member States, Port State Control Authorities, Owners, Masters and Seafarers.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In accordance with Annex 1 of IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.5/Rev.1, the Chief Executive Officer of the Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands has adopted a pragmatic and practical approach with regard to the extension of seafarer certification in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended, and as detailed in this Shipping Notice.
- 1.2 In adopting this approach the Chief Executive Officer is exercising the powers conferred by regulation 45 of the Merchant Shipping (Certification, Safe Manning, Hours of Work and Watchkeeping) Regulations (2004 Revision), as amended.

2. SEAFARER MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

- 2.1 A Seafarer Medical Certificate that expired after 01 April 2020 will be accepted as valid for service on a Cayman Islands ship if its validity has been extended by the Administration on whose behalf the certificate was issued.
- 2.2 A Seafarer Medical Certificates which has had its validity extended in line with 2.1 will be accepted as valid up to the limit of the extension granted or until 31 December 2020, whichever occurs first.
- 2.3 Under existing arrangements, a Seafarer Medical Certificate that expires while the seafarer is serving on a ship, and which has not been extended in accordance with 2.1, will be accepted as valid for a period of 3 months after its expiry, or until the first port at which it is possible for the seafarer to make an application for a medical fitness certificate and be examined by a medical practitioner, whichever occurs first.

3. CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY AND PASSENGER SHIP TRAINING

- 3.1 Certificates of Proficiency issued in accordance with STCW VI/1 (Basic Training), VI/2.1 (Survival Craft and Rescue Boat), VI/2.2 (Fast Rescue Boat) and VI/3 (Advanced Fire-fighting) require compulsory refresher training to maintain their validity.
- 3.2 A Certificate of Proficiency listed above that expired after 01 April 2020 will be accepted as valid for service on a Cayman Islands ship if its validity has been extended by the Administration on whose behalf the certificate was issued.
- 3.3 A Certificates of Proficiency which has had its validity extended in line with 3.2 will be accepted as valid up to the limit of the extension granted or until 31 December 2020, whichever occurs first.
- 3.4 Certain seafarers serving on passenger ships are required to undergo refresher training every five years in the areas specified by STCW V/2.7, .8 and .9. Where the period since last training exceeds five years on or after 01 April 2020, the evidence of training held will remain valid for service on Cayman Islands passenger ships until 31 December 2020.

4 EXISTING CAYMAN ISLANDS ENDORSEMENTS

- 4.1 A Certificate of Competency issued in accordance with STCW Ch II, III and IV, or a Certificate of Proficiency issued in accordance with the provisions of regulations V/1-1 and V/1-2, is required to be recognized by an endorsement which cannot exceed the validity of the certificate it recognizes.
- 4.2 Where a Cayman Islands Endorsement has expired, and the underlying certificate has been extended by the issuing Administration the validity of the Cayman Islands Endorsement should also be considered as similarly and automatically extended.
- 4.3 A Cayman Islands Endorsement which has had its validity extended in line with 4.2 will be accepted as valid up to the limit of the extension granted to the underlying certificate or until 31 December 2020, whichever occurs first.

5 NEW CAYMAN ISLANDS ENDORSEMENTS

- 5.1 Seafarers wishing to obtain a Cayman Islands Endorsement in relation to a Certificate of Competency or Certificate of Proficiency not currently recognized by endorsement should apply for a Cayman Islands Endorsement in the usual manner.
- 5.2 A certificate which has been extended by the issuing Administration will be eligible for endorsement. Any Cayman Islands Endorsement issued to recognize a certificate so extended will be valid in line with the extension of the underlying certificate or until 31 December 2020, whichever occurs first.

6 MODIFICATION OF CIGN 02-2020

- 6.1 This Shipping Notice supersedes the guidance given in paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 of Guidance Note 02-2020. Paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 of Guidance Note 02-2020 are now withdrawn.

7 PORT STATE CONTROL

- 7.1 Cayman Islands ships are advised to maintain a copy of this Shipping Notice on board and make it available to Port State Control Officers on request.
- 7.2 Port State Control Officers are requested to take into account the guidance contained in paragraph 2 of Annex 1 of Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5/Rev.1 (*Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance relating to the certification of seafarers and fishing personnel*) during port state control inspections on board Cayman Islands ships.