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Circular Letter No.4257
7 April 2020

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

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

The Government of the Republic of Ghana has sent the attached communication, dated 6 April 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

GHANA MARITIME AUTHORITY

In case of reply, the number and the date of this letter should be quoted



Ministries Post Office
P. M. B. 34, Ministries
Accra

GMA 6/4/04

My Ref. No.....

Your Ref. No.....

14th April 2020

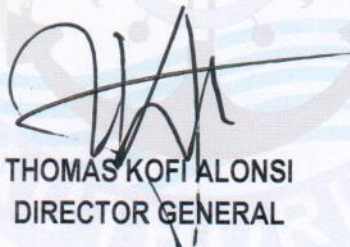
Dear Sir,

MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Recognizing the need to join efforts in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ghana Maritime Authority has extended the validity of all Republic of Ghana STCW Certificates including **COC and COP and COE** and Medical Certificates due to expire before 1st July, 2020 for an extended period of **3 months** from the date of expiry.

2. We hereby request Port State Control Authorities to note and act accordingly.
3. The Authority would kindly request the IMO Secretariat to circulate the information in the enclosed circular among Member States of the Organisation.
4. The Ghana Maritime Authority avails itself of this opportunity to renew to your Excellency the assurance of its highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,



THOMAS KOFI ALONSI
DIRECTOR GENERAL

MR. KITACK LIM
SECRETARY GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION
LONDON

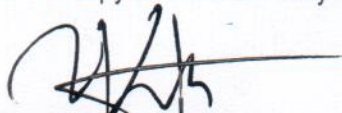


MARITIME CIRCULAR

GUIDANCE NOTE: 006

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) - EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED
UNDER THE STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW)
CONVENTION

1. The Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA) recognizes that in view of the continuing COVID-19 situation, seafarers and ship operators are facing challenges in meeting various statutory requirements provided under Ghana's maritime legislations.
2. In compliance with Government of Ghana's directives on COVID – 19, and to ensure that the flow of commerce by sea is not unnecessarily disrupted which will affect the ability of shipping services and seafarers to continue to deliver vital goods, including medical supplies and foodstuff during this difficult period, and ultimately overcoming this pandemic, there is the need to undertake emergency provisions to address the situation.
3. Consequently, the Authority hereby extends the expiry date of all STCW Certificates – COC/COP/COE including Training and Medical certificates as well as associated endorsements issued by the Director General of the Ghana Maritime Authority in accordance with provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended.
4. Accordingly, all Certificates issued by the Authority and which are expiring between **1 April and 30 June 2020** (both dates inclusive), will be extended for a period of **three (3) months** from the expiry date of the relevant certificate.
5. The above extension is in the view of the prevailing extraordinary circumstances of the worldwide spread of COVID-19 and taking also into consideration IMO Cir. Letter 4204 Add 5 and Cir. Letter 4204 Add 5 Rev 1 dated 17 March 2020 and 2 April 2020 respectively.
6. The Authority wishes to remind all concerned parties that the safety of life at sea, maritime security, protecting the marine environment and the respect of seafarers as key workers must remain priorities.
7. A copy of this order may be retained onboard for the guidance of officials should it be required.


THOMAS K. ALONSI
DIRECTOR GENERAL

14/04/20

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