



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS  
AND INSULAR POLICY**



**HELLENIC COASTGUARD  
HEADQUARTERS  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE  
FOR SHIPPING POLICY**

**SEAFARERS' LABOUR DIRECTORATE**

Address: : Akti Vasiliadi (Port Gate E1-E2)  
Postal Code: : 185 10, Piraeus  
Information : Lieut. Cdr HCG ANTONAKOU V.  
Tel. No. : ++30 213 137 1108, 1442, 4217  
Fax : ++30 210 413 7042  
Email : [dner.b@hcg.gr](mailto: dner.b@hcg.gr)

Piraeus, 02 - 09 - 2020  
**Prot. No.: 2242.7-1.3/ 56370 /2020  
MLC, 2006 Circ. 08**

**To: Recipients Distribution Table**

**Subject: "Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance relating to the Medical Certification under IMO STCW Convention, as amended and ILO MLC, 2006, as amended".**

**Ref.:** a) [Prot. No.: 2242.1/ 19566 /2020 Circ. MLC, 2006 07 MMAIP/HCG/SLD.](#)  
b) Ref no. 2020.0/ 42907/2020 Notice MMAIP/HCG.

1. As known, the World Health Organization (WHO) has determined that the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is a pandemic on 11 March 2020. It is evident that stringent border control measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 implemented by states across the world has resulted in shipowners/ operators having extreme difficulty in arranging crew changes and repatriating seafarers when their employment agreements (SEAs) and certificates of competence (CoC) expire.

2. According to article 3 par. 6 of the National Regulation for the implementation of the ILO Maritime Labour Convention, 2006<sup>1</sup>, in urgent cases, the Seafarers' Labour Directorate or the Port Authorities, upon the master's request, may permit a seafarer to work without a valid medical certificate until the next port of call where the seafarer can obtain a medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner that of paragraph 1, provided that the seafarer concerned is in possession of an expired medical certificate of recent date not over three (03) months. The period of such permission does not exceed three (03) months. If the period of validity of a certificate expires in the course of a voyage, the certificate continues in force until the next port of call where the seafarer can obtain a medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner that of paragraph 1, provided that the period does not exceed three (03) months.

3. Notwithstanding the abovementioned and taking into account the current exceptional conditions, this Administration allows for the extension until December 31st, 2020 of medical certificates that have been issued by medical practitioners duly authorized and expire until October 31st, 2020. The above referred extension relates only to the requirement for carrying a non-expired medical certificate and it should not be understood as allowing seafarers to serve on board vessels that are not actually medically fit to perform duties assigned at sea or are suffering from any medical condition likely to be aggravated or render the seafarer unfit for such service or endanger the health of other persons on board.

<sup>1</sup> Approved by Joint Ministerial Decision no. 3522.2/08/2013 (GG B' 1671)

4. The present document<sup>2</sup> is recommended to be kept onboard for verification reasons from the competent authorities, as appropriate. In case that a Greek flagged vessel is under port state control being imposed with restrictions for pertinent issues, the Seafarers' Labour Directorate ([dner.b@hcg.gr](mailto:dner.b@hcg.gr), [dner@hcg.gr](mailto:dner@hcg.gr)) should be relatively informed. Further to the present document, [the IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.10](#) should also be available onboard.

5. Shipowners' and Seafarers' organisations are requested to advise their members accordingly.

**THE MINISTER**

**PLAKIOTAKIS Ioannis**

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<sup>2</sup> which may be downloaded from <http://www.hcg.gr/node/5914>

## **DISTRIBUTION TABLE:**

### **I. RECIPIENTS FOR ACTION:**

1. Union of Greek Shipowners  
E-mail: [ugs@ath.forthnet.gr](mailto:ugs@ath.forthnet.gr)
2. Panhellenic Seamen's Federation  
E-mail: [gram@pno.gr](mailto:gram@pno.gr)
3. Passenger Shipping Companies Association  
E-mail: [seen@ath.forthnet.gr](mailto:seen@ath.forthnet.gr)
4. Short-Sea Shipping Shipowners' Association  
E-mail: [eenma@ath.forthnet.gr](mailto:eenma@ath.forthnet.gr)
5. Panhellenic Union of Shipowners Coastal Cargo Vessels up to 500 GRT.  
E-mail: [gorgo@otenet.gr](mailto:gorgo@otenet.gr)
6. Hellenic Professional Yacht Owners Association  
E-mail: [epest@epest.gr](mailto:epest@epest.gr)
7. Panhellenic Union of Tugboat - Lifeboat Shipowners "O Agios Nikolaos"  
Fax: 210 4124109, 2104413245-2104410813
8. Union of Tugboat-Lifeboat Shipowners  
E-mail: [somat-rk@otenet.gr](mailto:somat-rk@otenet.gr)
9. Panhellenic Union of Tugboat & Lifeboat Crews  
E-mail: [pep.rk.ng@gmail.com](mailto:pep.rk.ng@gmail.com)  
E-mail: [lskaros@yahoo.gr](mailto:lskaros@yahoo.gr)
10. Union of Cruise Shipowners and Associated Members  
E-mail: [info@cruise-union.com](mailto:info@cruise-union.com)
11. Panhellenic Union of Professional Tourist Day-Vessels  
E-mail : [penetis2001@yahoo.gr](mailto:penetis2001@yahoo.gr)
12. Panhellenic Union of Officers and Ratings of Professional – Private Cruise Vessels  
E-mail: [info@thalamigos.gr](mailto:info@thalamigos.gr)

### **II. RECIPIENTS FOR NOTIFICATION**

1. Hellenic Chamber of Shipping  
E- mail: [nee@nee.gr](mailto:nee@nee.gr)
2. Seafarers' Labour Recruitment Office  
E-mail: [info@generg.gr](mailto:info@generg.gr)
4. American Bureau of Shipping (ABS Europe Division)  
E-mail: [abspiraeus@eagle.org](mailto:abspiraeus@eagle.org)
5. Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK)  
E-mail: [pr@classnk.or.jp](mailto:pr@classnk.or.jp)
6. Hellenic Lloyd's (LR)  
E-mail: [piraeus@lr.org](mailto:piraeus@lr.org)
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12. China Classification Society (CCS)  
E-mail: [mjtang@ccs-eu.com](mailto:mjtang@ccs-eu.com)
13. Russian Maritime Register of Shipping (RS)  
Single Member Company Limited  
E-mail: [piraeus.office@rina.org](mailto:piraeus.office@rina.org)

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