



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

DG Shipping Order No. 06 of 2020.

NO: ENG/Misc-29(73)/09	Dated: 23.03.2020
Subject: Regarding Extension to the validity of seafarers' CoC and Statutory Certificates, periodical Surveys and Audits of Indian Registered Ships in view of COVID 19 outbreak.	

**1. Introduction:**

- 1.1 The outbreak of COVID-19 virus and its fast spreading has resulted in authorities taking precautionary measures by way of lockdown/shutdown of facilities. As a result of these precautionary measures, the owners and managers of the Indian Registered Ships and Indian seafarers are experiencing difficulties / challenges in adhering to the various statutory requirements / obligations imposed under the Merchant Shipping Act and its rules / regulations, such as maintenance of seafarers documents onboard ships and their validity including the validity of ship's statutory certificates.
- 1.2 This Administration is seized of the fact that some of the difficulties to meet statutory requirements such as expiry of the validity of Certificate of Competency (COC)/Certificate of Equivalency(COE) of seafarers, inability to obtain shipyard dry-docking services, inability to carry out mandatory periodical surveys, audits and inspections, etc that are currently being faced are solely not due to the fault of the ship owner / manager but due to the current situation being faced due to COVID-19.
- 1.3 In view of the above, the Directorate empathises with the current situation that is being faced by the owners and managers of Indian Registered Ships and takes following wider measures due to COVID-19, applicable to all Indian ships, for a

period of **One** month from the date of issue of this order, in addition to acting upon their ship specific cases favourably and expeditiously.

**2. Actions for the force majeure arising due to COVID-19**

*2.1 Extension of service beyond the COC/COE/COP revalidation deadline:*

The COC / COE / COP of seafarers, who are currently sailing onboard Indian flagged vessels and Indian seafarers sailing on foreign Flag ships, whose COC / COE / COP are about to expire stands extended for a maximum period of **One** month or till they sign off, whichever is earlier.

*2.2 Safe Manning Document (SMD) and exemptions to SMD:*

Where the Ship owners/Operators/Managers need to sign-off a crew member from a vessel due to the port restrictions at some ports and travel restrictions and the Ship owners/Operator/Manager is unable to repatriate them, exemptions to Safe Manning Documents will be considered on a case by case basis. Each request should be supported by risk assessment from the company. There will be no fees charged for these exemptions and exemptions will be issued on email.

*2.3 Extension of mandatory surveys, audits and expiry of statutory certificates.*

Consideration for the issuance of extension of mandatory statutory surveys, inspections and DOC/SMC/MLC/ISPS audits for a maximum period of 3 months under 'force majeure' due to the COVID 19 situation, will be granted provided necessary justification submitted for approval.

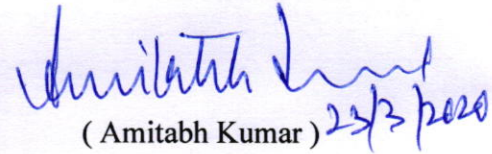
For extension of requests for DOC/SMC/MLC/ISPS and inspections, the application need to be submitted much before the due date of the inspection / audits or expiry date of concerned statutory certificates in order to avoid issues arising out of PSC. There will be no fees charged for these extensions/exemptions and extensions/exemptions will be issued on email.

In so far as extension of dry-docking surveys / periodical / annual / renewal surveys are concerned, if practicable, the Class may carryout necessary inspections for the purpose of the proposed extension of surveys. If the Class is finding it impractical to carry out certain inspections due to the prevailing conditions in various ports / countries, the class may issue the requested survey extension with proper justification

after obtaining an undertaking from the Master of the vessel for the satisfactory condition of the vessel and verification of survey records, as deemed appropriate. For this the online payment of applicable fees as being done currently shall continue.

In order to avoid misuse of the aforesaid relaxations, the ship owner / managers will have to keep the records to be verified during the next scheduled audit of the ship / company and penal action may be initiated if unjustified.

The validity of this order will be reviewed as the situation on spread / check of COVID-19 unfolds

  
( Amitabh Kumar ) 23/3/2020

Director General of Shipping and  
Additional Secretary to the Govt. Of India