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To,

OWNERS/MANAGERS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS (DCS),
COMPANY SECURITY OFFICERS (CSOS), MASTERS,
RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS (ROS), PORT STATE CONTROL AUTHORITIES (PSCS)

SUBJET: Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance Relating to the Postponement/Extension of Statutory Certification & Services

This Administration taking into consideration the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and its declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a pandemic, shall allow, as an exceptional measure and as a response to the current worldwide lock downs and travel restrictions, in order to keep the maritime trade safe and secure, the postponement and/or extension of all statutory certification and all survey services including ISM Code/ISPS Code audits and inspections related to MLC, 2006.

1. Recognized Organizations (ROs) shall request authorization for the issuance of Conditional Certificates valid for three (3) months using remote surveys, in cases where physical visits are not possible, provided all relevant records and justifications are reported, the soonest, to this Administration;
2. Annual services of life saving appliances and firefighting equipment expiring between September and November 2020, shall apply via vessels' ROs for extension for a maximum of three (3) month period, submitting also an official statement by the Master of the ship that the equipment is in good operational condition;
3. Vessels holding Conditional Certificates due to deficiencies or damages on board, which cannot be rectified or corrected, in coordination with their RO, shall communicate with this Administration for further guidance;
4. All statutory certificates (except for Conditional Certificates) expiring between September and November 2020 shall exceptionally be extended for a maximum of three (3) month period, including DOC/SMC/ISS/MLC and Exemption Certificates, subject to RO's acceptance and in coordination with it;
5. The postponement/Extension of the inspection of the outside ships' bottom will continue to be processed on a case by case basis. Inspections afloat using remote inspection techniques might be allowed under exceptional circumstances. Extensions beyond three (3) months may require a Risk Assessment approved by the RO, including mitigation measures;
6. In compliance with the following regulations of MARPOL Convention/Annex VI, an extension for a period of three (3) months from the below indicated deadlines shall be granted:

- a) The notification of fuel oil consumption data within a period of three months from the end of each calendar year (rule 22A.3), whose deadline was March 31, 2020;
 - b) The issuance of the Statement of Compliance related to the ships fuel consumption data reports (rule 6.6), whose deadline was May 31, 2020; and
 - c) The report of the fuel oil consumption data of the ships, after the issuance of the Statement of Compliance of said ships (rule 22A.9), whose deadline was June 30, 2020.
7. The validity of Colour Copies of Original Certificates as per this Administration's Circular "18/01165/COM", herewith attached underneath, issued as of September 2020 and afore, shall be considered valid for a three (3) month period;
 8. This Circular is effective immediately, due to the urgency of the circumstances, however once the current worldwide crisis due to the pandemic is overcome, our regular procedures will return. It shall be noted that this circular does not apply when the RO considers as safe and risk-free to perform the relevant surveys/audits;
 9. The Administration will continue evaluating the current worldwide situation due to the Covid-19. Further extensions (re-extension) might be granted on a case by case basis and after throughout evaluation of the circumstances beyond the control of the operator, upon relevant evidence is provided.

Contact:

Should you require any additional information, you may contact our Technical Department as provided below:

PIC: Ayaz Burud

E-mail: info@nta.gov.km/ info@comorosmaritime.org

Tel. (Office hours): +2697739779

Emergency: +2693437145

