HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY

HELLENIC COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR SHIPPING
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR SHIPS' CONTROL

CIRCULAR

SUBJECT: "INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION RELATED MEASURES TAKEN BY THE HELLENIC MARITIME ADMINISTRATION WITH RESPECT TO COVID-19- ISSUES"

1.General

Due to the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19, now declared by the WHO as pandemic, the Hellenic Maritime Administration wishes to inform the shipping community of the following extraordinary measures adopted by Legislative Act promulgated on 30.03.2020 in Government Gazette No.75.

The measures aim at enabling the smooth operation of Greek Flagged vessels even under the current unprecedented circumstances. To this end, appropriate adaptations to their inspection/certification processes are introduced, while maintaining the highest safety standards.

It is also recalled that updated information as regards circulars, decisions and health guidance provided by the international and national institutions are available online at the Hellenic Coast Guard website.

2. Ship Inspection and Certification.

a. Whereas, due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19 countermeasures, surveys, audits and inspections of Greek Flag vessels pertinent to the maritime safety, security, pollution prevention and labour legislation, either international and/or national, are not possible to be carried out, the General Directorate for Ships' Control, Local Inspections Offices of Port Authorities and Authorized Recognized Organizations **may grant extension for the execution of the pertinent surveys, audits and inspections and extend the validity of the related statutory Certificates for a period of no longer than three months.** Special attention is drawn of the shipping community to the fact that such

surveys/audits and inspections referred to the above paragraph include annual, intermediate, periodical and renewal surveys/audits. **It is also stressed that the said extension is beyond those cases foreseen in the international instruments e.g. SOLAS, MARPOL, LL Conventions and Codes related to them.**

b. Moreover, the Inspection Body for reasons related to COVID-19 countermeasures, can accept as valid documents and statements, issued by third parties for the purpose of issuing statutory certificates, e.g. service suppliers such as firms engaged in servicing LSA/FSS equipment, for an equal time period of up to the three months.

c. ROs are not required to obtain prior Flag consent but shall notify their actions to the Ships' Design and Construction Directorate (e-mail dmk@yen.gr, tel: +30 213 137 1951), Ships' Inspection Directorate (dep@hcg.gr, tel: +30 213 137 1957), Verification of Safety and Security Management of Ships and Port Facilities Directorate (dedaple@hcg.gr, tel: +30 213 137 1904, as regards ISPS/ISM/MLC), Regulations and Control of Organizations Directorate (dkeo@hcg.gr, tel.+30 213 137 1878) and Director's office of General Directorate for Ships' Control (dkc@hcg.gr, tel.+30 213 137 1959), as appropriate.

d. Managing Companies, ROs and Subcontractors shall endeavor to conduct the due surveys the soonest possible. The anniversary date of the Certificate shall not change. Managing companies, owners and masters, remain responsible for the continuous compliance of their vessels with the applicable requirements set out in the international, European and national legislation, as applicable.

3. Seafarers' Certificates

a. A general extended validity of 6 (six) months is granted by the Greek Maritime Administration to all Greek Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) of the seafarers on board vessels, which expired or are due to expire until 30 June 2020. For the CoC and the CoP, which expired, the 6 (six) months extended validity will be in force from the date of issue of the relevant national legislation (30-03-2020) and for the CoC and the CoP, which are due to expire until 30 June 2020, the 6 (six) months extended validity will be in force from the date of their expiration.

b. The Hellenic Maritime Administration also allows for the extension of the endorsements of attestation, provided that the CoC and the CoP of the foreign Authority, which are endorsed, have a period of validity extending until the date of the granted extension.

c. The individual seafarers will not be required to submit an application.

All Greek Flagged vessels shall carry on board the present document in order to be presented to any third party, e.g. Port State Control Officers and other stakeholders, as necessary.

HELLENIC COAST GUARD
1ST DEPUTY COMMANDANT

VICE ADMIRAL (HCG)
KONSTANTINOS POULIS

Ψηφιακά υπογεγραμμένο από AGAPI MANOUKA
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