MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 16 OF 2020

MPA Shipping Division
460 Alexandra Road
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Singapore 119963
Fax : 6375-6231
http://www.mpa.gov.sg

23 September 2020

Applicable to: Holders of certificates of competency and GMDSS General/Restricted Operator Certificate issued by Singapore, Flag states, Port States and Shipowners, ship managers, agents and anyone who engage the services of seafarers holding certificates of competency and GMDSS General/Restricted Operator Certificate issued by Singapore.

FURTHER EXTENSION OF STCW CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY SINGAPORE

1 The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA) note that due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, some seafarers face challenges in renewing their certificates issued under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Seafarers 1978, as amended (the STCW Convention).

2 The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has on 2 April 2020, issued a Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5/Rev.1 to encourage STCW certificates issuing administrations to take a pragmatic and practical approach regarding the extension of certificates, including medical certificates, and endorsements due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

3 In line with the IMO's guidelines and considering the persistent difficulties in revalidating STCW certificates due to COVID-19 pandemic, MPA and IMDA have decided to extend the validity of STCW certificates issued by Singapore as follows:

- All Certificate of Competency, associated endorsements (e.g. tanker endorsements) and other certificates issued under Chapter VI of the STCW issued by MPA expiring between 01 October 2020 and 31 March 2021 may be extended for a period of **six months** from the date of expiry of the respective certificates; and

- All GMDSS General/Restricted Operator certificates (GOC/ROC) issued by IMDA expiring between 01 October 2020 and 31 March 2021 may be extended for a period of **six months** from the date of expiry of the respective certificate.

4 The Seafarer shall complete the declaration form provided in Annex A of this circular and submit to MPA(COC@mpa.gov.sg) and/or IMDA(info@imda.gov.sg) respectively for the request to extend the validity of their certificate(s). MPA/IMDA will carry out assessment of the request accordingly and issue a letter or an email for confirmation of extension if the request is approved. If required, MPA/IMDA may schedule a telephone call or video-conference call with the Seafarer as part of the assessment.

5 A copy of the completed declaration form and the confirmation of extension issued by MPA and/or IMDA should be kept with the seafarer and may be used as proof of MPA/IMDA's approval.

REVALIDAITION OF CERTIFICATES

6 Notwithstanding the above, seafarers who can renew their certificates before the expiry date of the certificate are strongly encouraged to apply for revalidation of the certificate before the expiry date. Certificates that are revalidated successfully will be extended for 5 years from the date of issue printed on the certificate.

7 Any queries regarding this circular should be directed to MPA (Email: COC@mpa.gov.sg) or IMDA (Email: info@imda.gov.sg)

GOH CHUNG HUN (MR)
DIRECTOR OF MARINE
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

And

YUVARANI THANGAVELU (MS)
DIRECTOR OF LICENSING & ENFORCEMENT, INVESTIGATION, AND PROSECUTION

INFOCOMM MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

ANNEX A

DECLARATION FOR EXTENSION OF COC/GOC/OTHER STCW CERTIFICATES*

To: Director of Marine, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) / Director of Licensing & Enforcement, Investigation, and Prosecution, Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA)*

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, [Name as printed in the Certificate] _____, the holder of following Certificate(s):(please attach a copy of the certificate(s))

Title of Certificate	Certificate Number	Expiry Date	Issued by

Due to the reason (please provide brief details):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

I am not able to revalidate the above listed certificate(s) before their expiry date(s) due to the reasons as stated above. I hereby seek your consideration to extend the validity of the above listed certificate(s). I will endeavour to revalidate the certificate(s) once an opportunity arises.

I hereby declare, that I understand, accept and confirm that it is an offence and I will be liable for any disciplinary actions arising out of, should the above information be found untrue.

Yours Sincerely,

Name/Signature/Date

*Delete as appropriate