



02 July 2020

MARINA ADVISORY

No. 2020 - 52

Series of 2020

TO : All Concerned Government Agencies, MARINA Recognized Organizations, Flag States, Port Control Authorities, Shipowners/Bareboat Charterers/Ship Operators/Ship Managers/ Ship Masters of Philippine-Registered Overseas Ships, Manning Agencies, Filipino Seafarers Onboard, and Other Concerned Entities

SUBJECT : **Guiding Principles (step-based approach) Developed by International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Regarding Surveys and Renewals of Certificates During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Please be advised that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) issued Circular Letter No.4204/Add.19 Coronavirus (COVID-19), entitled: Guidance for Flag States Regarding Surveys and Renewals of Certificates During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Heeding the call of the IMO Secretary General to limit the issuance of short-term certificates or other measures to specific situations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and for relevant decisions to be made on a case-by-case basis, please be advised that MARINA Advisory No. 2020- 30, entitled: Further Extension of Statutory Certification and Services as a Temporary Contingency Measure During the COVID-19 Pandemic is hereby modified. We hereby adopt the Guiding Principles (step-based approach) developed by the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) when considering whether to permit statutory certificate extension beyond three (3) months.

It is recalled that due to the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the conduct of surveys, the MARINA had introduced alternative arrangements through MARINA Advisory No. 2020- 25 and MARINA Advisory 2020-30 allowing the issuance of short-term certificates or extending certificates beyond the statutory maximum.

With the issuance of IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.19, the MARINA, in observance of the prevailing principle of maintaining the highest level of compliance with existing statutory and classification provisions, shall consider the Annex providing for the Guiding principles on the provision of technical and implementation advice to flag States when considering whether to permit statutory certificate extension beyond 3 months.

As stated in the said Circular and the recommendations presented by its Recognized Organizations (ROs), the MARINA as the flag State will be following this step-based approach in order to lead to an informed decision-making process when deciding whether to permit the extended operation of the ship beyond the three (3) month statutory period:

Step 1: Have all options for completing the survey and renewing the certificates (using all available means permitted by the Administration) been exhausted?

Step 2: For each case of demonstrated exceptional circumstances and/or force majeure, examine the available information on the ship and its history as a means to considering alternative evidence on the conditions of the ship in lieu of completing the survey and offering a recommendation to its flag State.

Step 3: Consider how the requirements of the convention and classification rules can be shown to be met in the interim without changing the requirements themselves.

Step 4: Use verification requirements which are based on accepted survey procedures

Step 5: Consider alternative evidence for assessing compliance to account for:

- a. Confidence (how accurate a representation of the actual condition is this?)
- b. Durability (i.e. how long can this be considered a valid evidence before revalidation is required?)

Step 6: Concluding with an overall documented evidence on which the extension period and any service restrictions are based.

Further, the MARINA, its ROs and the shipowners/operators shall continue to improve its mechanism to ensure effective communication to allow consultation among all parties.

Finally, all survey certificates that were issued during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) shall remain valid subject to periodic review. All statutory certificates that were issued prior to the issuance of this Advisory shall likewise remain valid.

IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.19 can be viewed and downloaded at the MARINA website at www.marina.gov.ph

For the information and strict compliance of all concerned.



VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator



Attach: A/S

Control Number: OSS-CSMID-0068