

Bulletin

CCS Australian Office, No. 108, 2026 Issue 007

Notice on AMSA's Position Regarding Improper Extensions of Statutory Certificates

1. Background

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued Marine Notice 2026/01, "Invalid extensions of Statutory Certification", clarifying Australia's position on extensions of statutory certificates under international conventions, including but not limited to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), and outlining issues identified by AMSA during Port State Control inspections and the measures that may be taken.

2. Requirements for Extensions of Statutory Certificates

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) provides recommendations on extensions of certificate validity in MSC-MEPC.5-Circ.1. The Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) (IMO Resolution A.1207(34)) provide that an extension may be granted only when it is "appropriate and reasonable". In making this determination, consideration should be given to whether the ship is proceeding to the specified final agreed port of discharge and thereafter directly to the specified agreed port to complete the survey and/or dry-docking.

3. Issues Identified by AMSA

AMSA Port State Control Officers have found that some ships, after obtaining extensions of statutory certificates under SOLAS Chapter I, Regulation 14(e) or (f), continued commercial operations instead of proceeding directly to the survey port. Some ships were granted extensions of three months and continued, or planned to continue, operating during that period. The following circumstances were identified:

1. The ship did not proceed directly to the specified port of discharge and/or survey port;
2. The extension period exceeded the minimum time required to complete the survey;
3. Dry-docking also often needed to be arranged as part of the survey.

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AMSA also noted that the temporary relaxations introduced by IMO during the COVID-19 pandemic in response to government restrictions have been withdrawn, and normal statutory survey and certification procedures have resumed.

4. Possible Measures by AMSA

If an extension of a ship's statutory certificates is found to be contrary to the applicable convention or rule requirements, the ship may be detained during a Port State Control inspection. Where the extension was issued by a Recognized Organization (RO) appointed by the flag State, the RO may be held responsible for the detention. In accordance with the amended IMO Procedures for Port State Control, 2025, a ship may be permitted, while detained, to proceed to the survey port.

5. Key Matters Requiring Attention

To avoid detention during Port State Control inspections in Australia due to improper extensions of statutory certificates, ships intending to operate in Australian waters, as well as their management companies and shipowners, are reminded to pay particular attention to the following matters when an extension of statutory certificates is genuinely required:

1. The purpose of a certificate extension should be solely to allow completion of cargo discharge as soon as possible, followed by direct passage to the survey and/or dry-docking port. The extension should not be used to continue commercial operations;
2. The extension period should be limited to the minimum time required to complete the relevant survey and should not automatically be set at three months;
3. When applying for and issuing an extension, it should be confirmed that the extension complies with the applicable convention or rule requirements and the "appropriate and reasonable" criterion, and the final port of discharge and survey port should be clearly identified;
4. Extensions that do not comply with applicable convention or rule requirements may result in detention of the ship and may also involve responsibility on the part of the RO that issued the extension.

Reference

[AMSA, Marine Notice 2026/01, Invalid extensions of Statutory Certification](#)



CCS Australia Office
Sep 18, 2026

Announcement:

1. Intention is to assist and ensure owners to understand and well prepared, ensuring all updated requirements from AMSA can be met
2. For more information, please visit AMSA website at www.amsa.gov.au and CCS website at www.ccs.org.cn
3. The information contained does not and cannot supersede any AMSA or related governing parties requirements as well

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