



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
**Ministry of Sea, Transport and
Infrastructure**

CLASS: 810-03/20-01/30
FILE. NO.: 530-04-3-1-20-1
Zagreb, 18 March 2020



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**Subject: GUIDELINES FOR ADOPTION OF EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES
RESULTING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Due to the extraordinary situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter: the Ministry) has decided to adopt measures for seafarers who are not able to revalidate all the documents required for service on board ships.

In that context and in the light of this extraordinary situation that can be declared as a *force majeure* situation, the Ministry has decided to grant a general extension of the validity of seafarers personal documents in order to allow them to work legally.

**1. EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF SEAFARERS DOCUMENTS
BEYOND THEIR EXPIRY DATE**

**1.1. CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY AND CERTIFICATES OF
PROFICIENCY**

The Ministry has decided that the validity of Croatian Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) which will expire before 18 June 2020 are granted a general extended validity of up to 3 (three) months.

The individual seafarer will not be required to submit an application.

1.2. MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

Considering this situation as a *force majeure*, in respect of the Croatian medical certificates, the Ministry has decided to follow provisions for urgent cases allowed by the Regulation I/9 of the STCW Convention 1978 as amended Regulation 1.2. of the MLC Convention 2006 as amended.

Based on that, the Ministry permits a seafarer to work without a valid medical certificate, provided that:

- the period does not exceed 3 (three) months; and
- the seafarer concerned holds and expired medical certificate on recent date.

1.3. ENDORSEMENT OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES

The validity of Croatian endorsements will be linked to the validity of the seafarer's national Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoP).

If the seafarer's national Certificates of Competency (CoC) or Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) is revalidated, it will be possible to apply for a new endorsement to the Ministry.

The seafarer will then be granted a Temporary endorsement valid for a period up to 3 (three) months.

If the administration that has issued the seafarer's national Certificates of Competency (CoC) or Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) chooses a general extension of the validity of the national Certificates of Competency (CoC) or Certificates of Proficiency (CoP), the validity of the Croatian endorsement issued based on the current Certificates of Competency (CoC) or Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) will automatically be considered extended accordingly.

The seafarer will not be required to submit an application.

1.4. SEAMEN'S BOOKS, EMBARCATION PERMITS AND SEAFARERS IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

The Ministry has decided that the validity of seamen's books, embarkation permits and seafarers identity documents which will expire before 18 June 2020 are granted a general extended validity of up to 3 (three) months.

The individual seafarer will not be required to submit an application.

2. EXTENSION OF SEA SERVICE BEYOND THE SEAFARER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT PERIOD

Due to the difficulties in inability to organize repatriation of the seafarers, the shipowners may extend the validity of the Seafarers Employment Agreement for a maximum period of 3 (three) months, if the seafarer concerned agrees with the extension period and if it is in accordance with applicable collective bargaining agreement.

In this situation, it is required to conclude an Addendum of the Seafarer Employment Agreement under the same terms and conditions as the underlying Agreement.

3. NOTIFICATION

The Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia will notify all interested organizations (IMO, ILO, European Commission and others) on the above adopted measures.

These Guidelines will be also published on official Ministry's website: www.mmpi.hr.

4. CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us through the following e-mail address: pomorci@pomorstvo.hr

Yours sincerely,

