PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

Merchant Marine Notice

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

Coronavirus and Seafarers employment agreement and Certificates

No.: **MMN-03/2020**

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1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Notice is to inform that with the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a state of global health emergency, causing massive uncertainty across the global trade, resulting in additional implication for the regular shipping operations. The coronavirus outbreak has spread rapidly extended further to several countries.

2. The effects of this outbreak are having a repercussion with the seafarers whose Certificate/s have expired or will expire soon, where the companies are facing problems because their planned disembarkation cannot be safely completed in ports affected by the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus.

3. As it has been determined with extensive travel restrictions to and within infected and non-infected countries, moving personnel has become more difficult, resulting in harsh scrutinizing seafarers who have recently visited affected areas.

4. Regarding of the seafarers employment agreements and transitory measure carried out due to the Corona Virus outbreak, this Administration determined that they were applied until September 14, 2020. After this date, this Administration returned to compliance with the provisions of Executive Decree No. 86 of February 22, 2013, Merchant Marine Circular MMC-262 and Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended.

5. Extension of Seafarers Certificates of Endorsement

5.1 This letter shall be issued for the certificates issued by the Panama Maritime Authority under the Regulation I/10 of the STCW´78 Convention, as amended. These letters shall be issued by the Regional Documentation Offices of the General Directorate of Seafarers, after receiving the following requirements:

a) Email requesting the extension of the Certificate, including the particulars of the vessel, crew name and position on board.

b) For the Extension of Certificates issued under regulation I/10, shall submit the Authorization letter of extension of the issuance Country and copy of the Home Country License. The extension shall be given according the letter of authorization of the Issuance´s Country CoC´s or CoP´s.

c) Crew List.

d) Copy of the Registry Certificate.

5.2. Dispensation Letter

5.2.1 If any Third Party member of the STCW´78 Convention, who issued the Seafarers Certificate, has not extended it due to Corona Virus outbreak, this Administration shall grant a Dispensation Letter to the capacity under the requirements established in the Merchant Marine Circular No. 175 and shall complete the requested form available in the following link:http://201.225.255.174/download/index.php?dir=DISPENSAS_AUTORIZACION%2F which shall be submitted to the HEAD OFFICE or REGIONAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICES along with the following documents:

a) Copy of the Certificate/s.

b) Crew List.

c) Copy of the Registry Certificate.

6. Please contact the Regional Documentation Offices of your convenience to the following e-mail addresses:

AMERICA	
CERTIFICATION Dept. Panama LABOUR Dept. Panama	certification@amp.gob.pa seaextension@amp.gob.pa
RDO Miami	regionalmiami@amp.gob.pa
RDO Houston	offshore@segumar.com
ASIA	

RDO Dubai	segumar.dubai@segumar.com
RDO Shanghai	info.pmshanghai@amp.gob.pa
RDO Seoul	regionalofficeseoul@amp.gob.pa
RDO Manila	infoampmanila@amp.gob.pa
RDO Mumbai	ord.mumbai@amp.gob.pa
RDO Tokyo	crew-license@panaconsul-tokyo.com
RDO Imabari	segumar@segumarimabari.jp
RDO Singapore	segumar.sg@segumar.com
EUROPE	
RDO Piraeus	ampgreece@amp.gob.pa
RDO London	amplondon@amp.gob.pa

7. Extension of the Validity of Color Copy of Full terms of Technical Documents onboard.

7.1 In addition to the measures taken in the MMC-313 updated to 01st April 2020, the Panama Maritime Authority will grant an extension of the color copy of the full terms of Technical Documentation (Seaman's book, Course endorsement, Certificate of Competence, Certificate of Proficiency, Endorsement of Certificate of Competence and Endorsement of Certificate of Proficiency) for the period of ninety (90) calendar days, counting from the issuing date of the technical documentation. This document is verifiable using the QR code in the document or asking for confirmation via email to the e-mail address certification@amp.gob.pa

7.2 These extensions allowed will be reviewed considering the condition of the COVID-19.

8. Certificates of proficiency issued by an authorized Maritime Training Center of Panama in accordance with the regulation V and VI of the STCW amended (except those issued under regulation I/2) will be considered valid for a period of three (3) months from its expiry date.

9. Measures for Maritime Training Centers:

9.1 Resolution ADM-097-2021 of June, 2021, which subrogates Resolution ADM-214-2020, authorizes the PMA-authorized Maritime Training Centers until December 31, 2021, to renew Maritime training course certificates, to teach completely theoretical courses for the first time through the remote education modality, to teach courses (theoretical / practical), only the theoretical part for the first time through remote education and to carry out the process of Prior Documentary Evaluation through electronic media, all this as a contingency measure against the COVID-19 condition.

9.2. The maritime training course is authorized by the PMA, in accordance with the authorizations given to the Maritime Training Center by means of the corresponding resolutions.

9.3. Measures for the **renewal of courses:**

9.3.1 The participant must submit:

- **a)** Certificates of maritime training courses may be renewed taking into account their expiration date of up to five (5) years before December 31, 2020, by an authorized Maritime Training Center.
- **b)** Copy of the seaman's book where it portrays his/her time aboard.
- **c)** Work experience letters attesting that he/she has performed duties consistent with the certificate he/she holds, in an approved seagoing service, within the five (5) previous years.
- **d)** Personal identity card or passport.
- **e)** License in the case of subordinate employees or certificate of competence in the case of officers and masters.
- **f)** If he/she can acquire it, the participant may additionally submit copy of a section of the Security Management System certifying that the crew member has been linked to training sessions, as the case may be (for example, crew familiarization format, drills format, records, among other things).

9.3.2 The authorized Maritime Training Center provides the relevant training using e-education tools.

9.3.3 The Maritime Training Center shall prepare a document (check list) which shall be duly signed by the participant, in which he/she states that skill demonstrations (practices) were performed aboard.

9.3.4 The Maritime Training Center evaluates or examines seafarers to assess that the participant has acquired the skills, knowledge, understanding and sufficiency required by each course, as prescribed in the relevant Section and Table of the STCW Code.

9.3.5 The Maritime Training Center ensures delivering a copy of the course certificate to the participant by electronic media. This copy of the certificate will be valid until December 31, 2021. Once the national pandemic (COVID-19) state of emergency ends, the original certificate must be delivered to the participant.

9.3.6 The Maritime Training Center delivers the course certificate stating on its template that the approved course corresponds to a course renewal.

9.3.7 The Maritime Training Center, through its Quality Management System, ensures that the documentary information collected demonstrates the participant's skills and can verify its validity.

9.3.8 The Maritime Training Center does not accept certificates for renewing courses that have undergone changes with the Manila amendments to the STCW'78 Convention.

9.3.9 The Maritime Training Center requests experience of no less than three (3) months in the previous five (5) years, either in oil, chemical or gas tankers, when renewal is requested for this type of course.

9.4. The maritime training courses that may be renewed by authorized Maritime Training Centers are:

1. Training for Oil and Chemical Tanker Cargo Operations. (Reg. V/1-1, Paragraph 2.2, Section A-V/1-1, Paragraph 1 and Table A-V/1-1-1).
2. Advanced Training for Oil Tanker Cargo Operations. (Reg. V/1-1, Paragraph 4.3, Section A-V/1-1, Paragraph 2 and Table A-V/1-1-2).
3. Advanced Training for Chemical Tanker Cargo Operations. (Reg. V/1-1, Paragraph 6.3, Section A-V/1-1, Paragraph 3 and Table A-V/1-1-3).
4. Basic Training for Liquefied Gas Tanker Cargo Operations. (Reg. V/1-2, Paragraph 2.2, Section A-V/1-2, Paragraph 1 and Table A-V/1-2-1).
5. Advanced Training for Liquefied Gas Tanker Cargo Operations. (Reg. V/1-2, Paragraph 4.3, Section A-V/1-2, Paragraph 2 and Table A-V/1-2-2).
6. Proficiency in Personal Survival Techniques. (Reg. VI/1, Section A-VI/1 Paragraph 2 and Table A-VI/1-1).
7. Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting. (Reg. VI/1, Section A-VI/1 Paragraph 2 and Table A-VI/1-2).
8. Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats. (Reg. VI/2, Section A-VI/2, Paragraph 1-6 and Table A-VI/2-1).

9. Proficiency in Fast Rescue Boat (Reg. VI/2, Section A-VI/2, Paragraph 7-12 and Table A-VI/2-2).
10. General Operator Certificate for GMDSS (Reg. IV/2 Section A-IV/2 Table A-IV/2).
11. Restricted Operator Certificate for GMDSS (Reg. IV/2 Section A-IV/2 Table A-IV/2).
12. Advanced Training in Fire Fighting. (Reg. VI/3, Section A-VI/3 and Table A-VI/3).
13. Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities. (Reg. VI/1, Section A-VI/1 Paragraph 2 and Table A-VI/1-4).
14. Marine Environmental Awareness. (Reg. II/1, III/1 y III/6; Sections A-II/1, A-III/1 and A-III/6; Tables A-II/1, A-III/1, y A-III/6).
15. Security Training for Seafarers with Designated Security Duties. (Reg. VI/6, Paragraphs 4-6, Section A-VI/6, Paragraphs 6-8 and Table A-VI/6-2
16. Security Awareness Training for All Seafarers. (Reg. VI/6, Paragraphs 1-3, Section A-VI/6, Paragraph 4 and Table A-VI/6-1.
17. Radar Navigation, Radar Plotting and Use of ARPA. Operational Level. (Reg. II/1 y 11/3; Section A-II/1 y 11/3 and Table A-II/1 y A-II/3).
18. Elementary First Aid. (Reg. VI/1, Section A-VI/1 Paragraph 2 and Table A-VI/1-3).
19. Medical First Aid. (Reg. VI/4, Section A-VI/4, Paragraph 1-3, Table A-VI/4-1).
20. Medical Care. (Reg. VI/4, Section A-VI/4, Paragraph 4-6 and Table A-VI/ 4-2)
21. Operational Use of Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS). (Reg. II/1, II/2 y II/3, Section A-II/1, A-II/2 y A-II/3 and Tables A-II/1, A-II/2, A-II/3).
22. Leadership and Teamwork. (Reg. II/1, III/1 y III/6; Sections A-II/1, A-III/1 and A-III/6; Tables A-II/1, A-III/1 y A-III/6).
23. Passenger Ship Crowd Management Training. (Reg. V/2, Sections A-V/2, Paragraph 3 and Table A-V/2-1).
24. Passenger ship Crisis Management and Human Behaviour Training. (Reg. V/2, Section A-V/2, Paragraph 4 and Table A-V/2-2).
25. Safety Training for Personnel Providing Direct Service to Passengers in Passengers Spaces. (Reg. V/2, Section A-V/2, Paragraph 2).
26. Ship Security Officer. (Reg. VI/5, Section A-VI/5 and Table A-VI/5 of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended; Chapter XI-2 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended and Prescriptions 2.1.6 and 12 of Part A of the ISPS Code).

27. Ratings Forming Part of an Engineering Watch. (Reg. III/4, Section A-III/4 and Table A-III/4).
28. Able Seafarer - Deck. (Reg. II/5, Section, A-II/5 and Table A-II/5).
29. Able Seafarer - Engine. Reg. III/5, Section A-III/5 and Table A-III/5).
30. Electro-Technical Rating (Reg. III/7, Section A-III/7 and Table A-III/7).
31. High Voltage Installations (Reg. III/1, III/2, III/3 Sections A-III/1, A-III/2, A-III/3 and Tables A-III/1, A-III/2).
32. Passenger Safety, Cargo Safety and Hull Integrity Training. (Reg. V/2, Section A-V/2, Paragraph 5).
33. Radar, Arpa, Bridge Teamwork and Search and Rescue. Management Level. (Reg. II/2, Section A-II/2 and Table A-II/2).
34. Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch. (Reg. II/4, Section A-II/4 and Table A-II/4).
35. Ship's Cook Course according to Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 and Resolution ADM No. 068-2013. (Reg 3.2, Standard A 3.2 and Guideline B 3.2 of the Maritime Labor Convention, 2006).
36. Bridge Resource Management (Reg. II/1, Section A-II/1 and Table A-II/1).
37. Engine Room Resource Management. (Reg. III/1, Section A-III/1 and Table A-III/1)".
38. Maritime Safety Course of Seafarers of National Waters.

9.5. The following maritime training courses with entirely theoretical material, may be **taught for the first time** using electronic teaching tools and applying an examination or final test according to the skills required for each course:

1. Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities. (Reg. VI, Section A-VI/1 and Table A-VI/1-4);
2. Security Awareness Training. (Reg. VI/6, Section A-VI/6 P. 4 and Table A-VI/6-1);
3. Security Training for Seafarers with Designated Security Duties. (Reg. VI/6, Section A-VI/6, P. 6 and Table A-VI/6-2);
4. Marine Environmental Awareness. (Reg. II/1, III/1 and III/6, Section A-II/1, A-III/1 and A-III/6 and Table A-II/1, A-III/1 and A-III/6);
5. Dangerous, Hazardous and Harmful Cargo. (Reg. II/1, II/2 and II/3, Section A-II/1, A-II/2 and A-II/3 and Table A-II/1, A-II/2 and A-II/3);
6. Action to be taken to Prevent Acts of Piracy and Armed Robbery. (Cap. XI-2 SOLAS 1974, PBIP Code and MSC.1/cire.1341).

7. Security Awareness Training for all Port Facility Personnel. (Cap. XI-2 SOLAS 1974, PBIP Code and IMO MSC.1341).
8. Security Awareness Training for Port Facility Personal with Designated Security Duties. (Cap. XI-2 SOLAS 1974, PBIP Code and IMO MSC.1/Circ.1341).
9. Company Security Officer. (Cap. XI-2 SOLAS 1974, P. 2.1.7 and 11, Part A, PBIP Code).
10. Port Facility Security Officer. (P. 2.1.8 and 17, Part A, PBIP Code).
11. Maritime Safety for seamen of National Waters.
12. Drug and Alcohol Prevention Programmes in the Maritime Sector. (PADAMS).
13. MARPOL Consolidated 73/78 Annex I-VI.

9.6. The maritime training courses with **theoretical and practical content** that may be taught for the first time to a participant, but that are **only authorized to impart the theoretical part** are:

1. Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch on Ships of 500 Gross Tonnage or more (Operational Level). (Reg. II/1, Section A-II/1 and Table A-II/1).
2. Officer in Charge of an Engineering Watch in a manned engine-room or as designated duty engineers in a periodically unmanned engine-room. (Operational Level). (Reg. III/1, Section A III/1 and Table A-III/1).
3. Electro-Technical Officer. (Reg. III/6, Section A-III/6 and Table A-III/6).
4. Ratings Forming Part of an Engineering Watch. (Reg. III/4, Section A-III/4 and Table A-III/4).
5. Ordinary Seaman. (N/A).
6. Ratings Forming.
7. Wiper (N/A).
8. Ship's Cook Course according to Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 and Resolution ADM No. 068-2013. (Rule 3.2, Standard A 3.2 and Guideline B 3.2 of the Maritime Labor Convention, 2006).
9. Hotel Staff.

9.7. Authorized Maritime Training Centers must forward to the Department of Maritime Training to the following email: training.department@amp.gob.pa, within fifteen (15) calendar days after the end of the course, the following documentary evidence:

a) Copy of the attendance register of the participants who have taken the training by using a remote, electronic or virtual learning method;

b) Evidence of the electronic teaching tools used by the maritime training center to conduct the virtual training, including videos, photographs, didactic material, forums, workshops, among other things, that prove that the training has been imparted.

c) Copy of the evaluation or examination applied to the participant;

d) Copy of the issued course certificate.

9.8. The Previous Documentary Evaluation (PDE) proceedings shall be filled by a Maritime Training Center authorized by the Panama Maritime Authority electronically, always keeping evidence of the process and submitting the certificate reports on a daily and monthly basis to the Maritime Training Department's email.

10. Finally, these measures established would be revised accordingly to the condition of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) across the global trade in the maritime sector.

October, 2021 - *Modification/update through the entire MMN text.*
January, 2021*- Paragraph 6.2, 7, 11.1 and 11.3 number 5, has been modified.*
October, 2020 *– Paragraph 6.2 has been modified.*
August, 2020 *– New paragraph 4.3, and paragraphs 5, 6.1, 6.4 and 9.1 has been modified.*
June, 2020 *– Paragraph 6.1, 6.2*
June, 2020 – *Paragraph 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7, 9.1, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.4, 11.5, and 11.6 has been modified.*
May, 2020 – *Paragraph 6.1 has been modified.*
April, 2020 *- New paragraph 11.*
April, 2020 *- New paragraphs 6.2, 8 and 9, the numbers of the paragraphs are also ordered.*
March 25, 2020 *- Coronavirus Prevention Measures.*
March, 2020 *- Coronavirus Prevention Measures.*
February, 2020 *- Coronavirus Prevention Measure.*

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Notice or any other request should be forward to:

Maritime Labour Affairs Department / Certification Department / Training Department / SEGUMAR
General Directorate of Seafarers
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority
Phone: (507) 501-5062

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