



IMMARBE Circular Letter **ICL-20-005**

IMMARBE's SEAFARERS DEPARTMENT COVID-19 ASSISTANCE 2020-2021

TO: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, SHIP OWNERS/ISM OPERATORS/RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS/SHIPPING AGENTS/GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS

CL Superseded: **ICL-20-003**
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INTRODUCTION

We have all witnessed the seriousness of the effects that this Covid-19 pandemic can have on our seafarers as they conduct commerce globally. We know that it is a very difficult time for some ship owners, but we have been faced with situations that causes us to wonder if enough is being done to ensure that the wellbeing of our seafarers is being upheld.

The first wave of support granted by IMMARBE Head Office through the authorization of the Sr. Deputy Registrar was merely a support system to avoid detentions in ports. We believe that enough is not being done to commit to the smooth transition of crew and the safe repatriation of persons who have been serving onboard for more than 12 months consecutively (A 2.5 MLC 2006). We have to date over 110 ships that have seafarers onboard with extended Seafarers Agreements. With this number of seafarers with extended time onboard our vessels we are now concerned about mental fatigue and excess stress that may lower the level of performance onboard and have lifelong effects on these individuals.

PURPOSE

In support of Merchant Marine Notice MMN-20-005 chartered by the (IMMARBE) Technical Department; we want to express the administrative changes to the application process for extensions of Seafarers Employment Agreements.



CONTENT

In light of this we want to assure you that our Administration in solidarity with the IMO/WHO/ ILO guidelines stands ready to assist you in any way possible. As of today, a decision was made to say as follows:

Before applying for extensions for Seafarers Employment Agreements this administration must be resolved that the situation absolutely requires it. And such we have implemented a pre- application criteria that must be satisfied before we can accept the application for processing.

-Pre-Application Criteria:

- 1) Proven evidence of all unsuccessfully attempts for repatriation.
- 2) Published local restrictions for past and future Port of Calls.
- 3) Vessel's itinerary

-Application Criteria:

Upon review and if found to be in order where this administration is completely satisfied that the SEA extension is warranted:

- 1) "Where a seafarer's employment agreement (SEA) expires or is due to expire between 1 Dec 2020 / 30 April 2021, and a seafarer has reached the maximum period of service and/or repatriation of the seafarer is difficult due to current travel restrictions, the SEA may be extended by up to 3 months from the date of expiry with the agreement of the seafarer.
- 2) In this situation, the same terms and conditions as originally agreed will continue to apply.
- 3) Any Agreement to such an extension, must be signed by the seafarer and witnessed by a person not party to the Agreement.
- 4) For the interim if in case there exist a pressing issue in regards to any of our personnel onboard kindly send us the details directly to Seafarer Manager at



seafarersmanager@immarbe.com with a copy to Seafarer Officer 1 at seafarerofficer1@immarbe.com;

- 5) Kindly note that we are going to issue each extension separately for every effected seafarer, as we are now looking at these cases closer and will be evaluating each separately and on its own merit. The cost of each certificate will be \$100 USD per person.

-For SEA Extensions we will need information regarding:

- 1) Copy of the affected SEA;
- 2) Copy of the COE's or COP's of seafarers affected;
- 3) Copy of a crew list form the vessel on which the seafarers are currently employed.
- 4) An official letter of request from the captain signed by the crew members affected;
and
- 5) The vessel full particulars.
- 6) Action Plan for repatriation

-Continuing services:

- 1) We are continuing the assistance given to officers who finds themselves in a position where it is absolutely impossible to renew their medical certificates before embarking or in case they become invalid in voyage. These queries will continue to be handled on a case by case basis and anyone found in these situations must apply to the SM for support.
- 2) We are also continuing the assistance given in cases where COE's must be extended for officers that are unable to take refresher courses or extended their CoC's. again, we stand ready to assist in this matter. Kindly forward to us the details of your request so we can facilitate forthwith.



IMMARBE takes the responsibility to keep all stakeholders up to the speed with the new developments and technical advice proposed by the IMO ILO and WHO very seriously. You should expect for us to provide this information to you on a continuous basis as they become available to us.

“STAY SAFE”

This Circular Letter was issued in Belize city, Belize 11/12/2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Annette Garel".

Annette Garel (Mrs)
Senior Deputy Registrar
IMMARBE HEAD
OFFICE



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edmond Staine".

Edmond Staine (Mr)
Seafarers Manager
IMMARBE HEAD OFFICE