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**Marine Instruction (8/2021)**

**Further Extension of validity of the STCW Certificates of Myanmar seafarers serving onboard during the COVID-19 pandemic**

**Applicable to: Myanmar Seafarers, Ship Owners, Shipping Companies, Port State Control, Flag State Authorities, Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Services (SRPS) and other individuals concerned**

Reference: IMO Circular No. 4204/Add.5/ Rev.1 on 2 April 2020

*Summary*

*This document provides the information relating to further extension of validity of the STCW certificates for Myanmar seafarers, currently serving onboard engaged, who are affected by the challenges caused by COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent outbreak worldwide that has impacted on essential seafarer training and certification services.*

1. The Department of Marine Administration (DMA) is fully aware of that the COVID-19 pandemic has significant impacts on seafarers and the entire global shipping industry. Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the governments around the world have created significant hurdles to crew changes and repatriation of seafarers, as well as the current disruption still persists, and therefore, numbers of Myanmar seafarers are necessary to extend their certificates.
2. Impacts of COVID 19 pandemic have triggered the closure of Maritime Training Centres (MTCs), and therefore, the DMA has permitted the MTCs to conduct online courses for revalidation of CoCs and CoPs in order to facilitate seafarers to join ships with valid certificates.
3. The validity of STCW certificates of Myanmar seafarers who are currently serving ONBOARD and engaged on international voyages and near-costal voyages, that are expiring between the period of 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021 **shall be extended to 31 March 2022** without need to submit application at the DMA.

4. Notwithstanding this extension, all Myanmar seafarers ASHORE are strongly encouraged to apply for revalidation of their CoCs and CoPs upon the completion of online courses or practical trainings for revalidation at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the stipulated requirements for revalidation of respective certificates.

5. This Marine Instruction comes into force on the date of issue, and Marine Instructions (2/2021) and (6/2021) are revoked.



Dr. Ko Ko Naing

Director General (Acting)