



# TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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## MARINE CIRCULAR

### MC-2/2020/1

04/2020

**FOR:** Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, Port Authorities, Flag State Inspectors

**SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF SEAFARERS' EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT SERVICE PERIOD AND CERTIFICATES OF ENDORSEMENT DUE TO COVID-19**

#### DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- "SEA" – Seafarers' Employment Agreement
- "COC" – Certificate of Competency in accordance to the STCW
- "COE" – Certificate of Endorsement (issued against an officer's COC / GOC / DCE / SSO)
- "COP" – Certificate of Proficiency in accordance to the STCW
- "DCE" – Dangerous Cargo Endorsement (e.g. Advanced Oil/Chemical Tanker Certificate)
- "GOC" – GMDSS Operator Certificate
- "MC" – Medical Certificate
- "SSO" – Ship Security Officer Certificate
- "STCW" – International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended

The term "Administration" shall mean the Tuvalu Ship Registry.

#### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this circular is to address the heightened immigration measures and travel restrictions put in place by an increasing number of countries which may result in difficulties for ship owners to arrange change of crew when their SEAs expire, and for seafarers to have their COCs/COPs/MCs revalidated prior to the expiry of their Tuvalu COE.

#### REFERENCES:

- (a) Tuvalu Marine Circular MC-1/2020/1 – Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19)
- (b) Tuvalu Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention 2006) Regulations
- (c) Tuvalu Registry Circular RC-5/2012/1 – Crew Endorsement Application

#### APPLICATION:

This circular applies to all seafarers serving on board Tuvalu flagged vessels.

## CONTENTS:

### 1. Extension of SEA

- 1.1. International efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19 has led to an increasing number of countries and their port authorities placing immigration restrictions which may result in difficulties for ship owners to arrange change of crew when the SEAs of the crew expire.
- 1.2. In order to address the issue, the Administration hereby wishes to inform all parties concerned that a seafarer's service period may be extended on condition that any such extension is:
  - 1.2.1. agreed by the seafarer voluntarily in writing; and
  - 1.2.2. is properly set out in the SEA which shall be in accordance to the Tuvalu Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention 2006) Regulations

### 2. Extension of Tuvalu Certificates of Endorsement (COE)

- 2.1. Tuvalu COEs that expire due to the seafarers being unable to revalidate their COCs, COPs and/or MCs due to travel restrictions imposed will be able to apply to [crewing@tvship.com](mailto:crewing@tvship.com) to have the COEs extended on condition that the National Authority issuing the COC and/or COP has issued an official notice or letter of extension.
- 2.2. In the event that an official notice or letter of extension by the National Authority cannot be produced, then the Administration may, on a case-to-case basis, issue a short term dispensation letter to allow the seafarer to continue to sail in his/her present capacity until the vessel is able to call at the first port where the seafarer can be replaced or repatriated. Please contact [technical@tvship.com](mailto:technical@tvship.com) to apply for a dispensation if required.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar  
Tuvalu Ship Registry