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To,

OWNERS/MANAGERS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS (DCS), COMPANY SECURITY OFFICERS (CSOS), MASTERS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS (ROS), PORT STATE CONTROL AUTHORITIES (PSCS)

**SUBJECT: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – GUIDANCE RELATING TO THE POSTPONEMENT/EXTENSION OF STATUTORY CERTIFICATION & SERVICES**

This Administration taking into consideration the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and its declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a pandemic, shall allow, as an exceptional measure and as a response to the current worldwide lock downs and travel restrictions, in order to keep the maritime trade safe and secure, the postponement and/or extension of all statutory certification and all survey services including ISM Code/ISPS Code audits and inspections related to MLC, 2006.

1. Recognized Organizations (ROs) shall request authorization for the issuance of Conditional Certificates valid for three (3) months using remote surveys, in cases where physical visits are not possible, provided all relevant records and justifications are reported, the soonest, to this Administration;
2. Annual services of life saving appliances and firefighting equipment expiring between March and May 2020, shall apply via vessels' ROs for extension for a maximum of one (1) month period, submitting also an official statement by the Master of the ship that the equipment is in good operational condition;
3. Vessels holding Conditional Certificates due to deficiencies or damages on board, which cannot be rectified or corrected, in coordination with their RO, shall communicate with this Administration for further guidance;
4. All statutory certificates (except for Conditional Certificates) expiring between March and May 2020 shall exceptionally be extended for a maximum of three (3) month period, including DOC/SMC/ISS/MLC and Exemption Certificates, subject to RO's acceptance and in coordination with it;
5. The validity of Colour Copies of Original Certificates as per this Administration's Circular "18/01165/COM", herewith attached underneath, issued as of March 2020 and afore, shall be considered valid for a three (3) month period;

6. This Circular is effective immediately, due to the urgency of the circumstances, however once the current worldwide crisis due to the pandemic is overcome, our regular procedures will return. It shall be noted that this circular does not apply when the RO considers as safe and risk-free to perform the relevant surveys/audits.

Should you require any additional information, you may contact our Technical Department as provided below:

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We take this opportunity to reassure that human life, marine environment and property are always considered as a priority for the Maritime Administration of Comoros which is committed to the safety of the maritime industry and the users around the world.

  
Maritime Affairs Department  
Said Salim  
Registrar