



# ST KITTS & NEVIS INTERNATIONAL SHIP REGISTRY

## MARITIME CIRCULAR – MC 108 21

### EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF STCW CERTIFICATES OF SEAFARERS AMID CHALLENGES CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

#### 1. **Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this Maritime Circular is to inform all stakeholders about the measures taken by the St. Kitts and Nevis International Ship Registry in order to facilitate the uninterrupted operation of the international shipping regarding seafarer's certificates and documents which have expired or are due to expire.

#### 2. **Introduction**

- 2.1. The spread of COVID-19 had a serious impact to the whole world and the international shipping particularly causing travel bans, closures of ports and denied entry of ships. Such actions caused difficulties or impossibility of the transit and movement of seafarers for disembarkation, repatriation, or joining the ship and changing the crew.
- 2.2. Facing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, many Administrations have issued Circulars announcing their decision and terms to extend the validity of Seafarers' Certificates and other documents issued in accordance with *the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW)*, as amended.

#### 3. **Validity of Seafarers' Certificates**

- 3.1. In case if there is no possibility, due to a seafarer's being on board the ship engaged in international navigation, to extend under the appropriate procedures Certificates of Seafarers, such as Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency, or other documents issued in accordance with *the STCW Convention*, this Administration accepts the extension of the validity of seafarers' documents in accordance with the suggested terms by the national Administrations that issued the documents.
- 3.2. The validity of Certificates of Endorsement (CoE) attesting the Recognition of Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency may be extended if national Certificates of Competency or Certificates of Proficiency are extended as well.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Liam Ryan', written over a blue horizontal line.

Liam Ryan (Oct 11, 2021 12:45 GMT+1)

Liam Ryan  
International Registrar of Shipping and Seamen


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Final Audit Report

2021-10-11

Created:	2021-10-11
By:	v Chrapovickaja (vanda.chrapovickaja@skanregistry.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAvezQjJEgQRpL7-MzQcjoEwsnlgsxHntH


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 Document created by v Chrapovickaja (vanda.chrapovickaja@skanregistry.com)

2021-10-11 - 11:37:50 AM GMT- IP address: 5.80.255.149

 Document emailed to Liam Ryan (liam.ryan@skanregistry.com) for signature

2021-10-11 - 11:39:56 AM GMT

 Email viewed by Liam Ryan (liam.ryan@skanregistry.com)

2021-10-11 - 11:45:25 AM GMT- IP address: 81.92.200.52

 Document e-signed by Liam Ryan (liam.ryan@skanregistry.com)

Signature Date: 2021-10-11 - 11:45:50 AM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 81.92.200.52

 Agreement completed.

2021-10-11 - 11:45:50 AM GMT