



**Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport
Italian Coast Guard Headquarters**

VI Department
Safety of Navigation and Maritime Security

Subject: COVID-19 Measures

The repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to have a significant impact on global trade and the global shipping industry.

In Italy, the Government implemented preventative measures in its fight to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The outbreak and subsequent measures have led to disruptions in regular shipping operations, including the standard requirements for the renewal of seafarers' and ships' certificates per the applicable maritime conventions.

Consequently, and in accordance with the FAL Convention (article V point 2), the Italian Coast Guard Headquarters has undertaken the following initiatives:

A. STCW Convention – Certification for seafarers

Certificate of Proficiency (COP):

The provisions of the Manila Amendments state that in order to renew the certification required by Chapter VI of the STCW Convention, it is compulsory to attend the following refresher courses:

- Basic Training Regulation VI/1 and corresponding Section A-VI/1 points 2, 3 and 4;
- Survival Craft and Rescue Boat Regulation VI/2.1 and corresponding Section A-VI/2 points 5 and 6;
- Fast Rescue Boat Regulations VI/2.2 and corresponding Section A-VI/2 points 11 and 12;
- Advanced fire-fighting - Regulation VI/3 and corresponding Section A- VI/3 points 5 and 6.

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and adhering to preventative measures, the Certificate of Proficiencies (CoPs) relating to the above-mentioned training courses have been extended with the following conditions:

- a. Extensions are limited to 6 months;
- b. Extensions are granted only to seafarers with adequate experience who have already served in that position and:
 - are serving on board with certification expiring during the course of their employment; or
 - are due to embark and are in possession of expired certificates.

The above was forwarded to IMO with the aim of publication and communication to all Member States (Attachment 1).

Training and qualification of personnel on passenger ships (Regulation V/2 STCW):

The validity of the documentary evidence of the training has been extended for six months.

B. MLC, 2006 – Regulation 1.2 - Standard A1.2

The Ministry of Health extended the validity of the medical certification for 3 months. The Italian Coast Guard affirms that the conditions required by MLC, 2006 Standard A1.2 paragraph 8 should be applied.

C. Ship's certification

The surveys/inspections related to the issuing or endorsing of the statutory certificates have been regulated by Circular letters 4/2020, 5/2020 and 10/2020 (Italian language published on web page <http://www.guardiacostiera.gov.it/normativa-e-documentazione/Pages/circolari.aspx>)

A remote survey can be carried out only when the extension time limit is elapsed and in particular:

- a. SOLAS: extension of 3 (three) months in application of SOLAS amendments 1988, Regulation I/14 letter (e) (HSSC);
- b. Directive 2009/45/CE: Passenger ship safety certificate validity is extended for a period up to three months applying mutatis mutandis the provisions contained in SOLAS 1988 Amend / Chapter I (HSSC) / Reg. 14 (e) for the duration of the emergency period as per instruction received by the European Commission;
- c. Directive 2017/2110/EU: Pre-commencement and regular inspections not carried out within the established time window are “justified” applying mutatis mutandis the provisions contained in Directive 2009/16/EC Art. 8 – 2.a) and 3.c).
- d. Italian Presidential Decree 435/91: extension until 15 June 2020 in accordance with the Decree-Law 17 March 2020, No. 18 article 103, paragraph 2..

D. Bottom dry-docking surveys

Ships' companies are facing criticism related in particular to a sharp slowdown of ships going into dry-dock and, in some cases, the banning of ships' access. Consequently, ships are no longer in the position to start the dry-dock survey by the time required by SOLAS Regulation I/10(a)(v), although it has been demonstrated that the dry-dock was scheduled well in advance.

In this regard, the Italian Coast Guard decided that, in cases of justified impossibility for the ship to enter dry-dock, the in dry-dock bottom ship's inspection can be postponed subject to the satisfactory result of an in-water bottom survey.

In light of the ongoing emergency situation, this is the approach the Italian Coast Guard will continue to take until 30th June 2020.

The above:

- have been regulated by Circular letter 9/2020 (Italian language published on web page <http://www.guardiacostiera.gov.it/normativa-e-documentazione/Pages/circolari.aspx>); and
- was forwarded to IMO with the aim of publication and communication to all Member States (Attachment 2).

E. Periodic services performed by external companies.

Statutory verification and certification processes that are related also to activities to be performed by the external companies can be categorized in three macro-areas:

1. verification overseen by National, Union or International law to be completed within 3 months before or after each anniversary date;
2. repair, test and or verification following damages, equipment and system failure, detention etc.;
3. services different from those referred to in points 1. and 2. required by the Recognized Organization or in application of instructions provided by equipment's manufacturer.

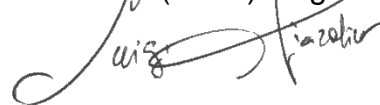
Considering the above, the following instructions were delivered:

- As regards the activities referred in point 1., the extension of the relevant certifications' validity has been extended also to all related services;
- As regards the activities referred in point 2., if the Recognized Organization confirms the good working condition of the concerned equipment, the ships' RO will issue a specific "deficiency card" with a maximum validity of 3 (three) months;
- The services referred to in paragraph 3., which are not covered by the specific rules set out in paragraphs 1 and 2, will be managed through specific instructions to be issued by the Recognized Organization or the maker.

The above have been regulated by Circular letter 6/2020 (Italian language published on web page <http://www.guardiacostiera.gov.it/normativa-e-documentazione/Pages/circolari.aspx>)

Rome, 27th March 2020

THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT
Rear Admiral (ITCG) Luigi GIARDINO





**Ministry of Infrastructures and
Transport**

*Italian Coast Guard Headquarters
Safety of Navigation and
Maritime Security Department*

Rome, 20th March 2020
(p.o.c. Rear Admiral (ITCG) Luigi GIARDINO
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HE Mr. Kitack Lim
Secretary General of
International Maritime Organization

Subject: Measures to Address Covid-19.

Dear Secretary-General Lim,

The Italian Coast Guard Headquarters presents its compliments and has the honour to confirm receipt of the Circular letter No. 4204/Add.5 dated 17th March 2020.

In its fight to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Government of Italy has declared a state of emergency and has been forced to exercise strict measures - one of which, inter alia, has been to close all seafarers' training centers in Italy that are recognized and controlled by the Italian Coast Guard.

The provisions of the Manila Amendments state that in order to renew the certification required by Chapter VI of the STCW Convention, it is compulsory to attend the following refresher courses:

- ◆ Basic Training Regulation VI/1 and corresponding Section A-VI/1 points 2, 3 and 4;
- ◆ Survival Craft and Rescue Boat Regulation VI/2.1 and corresponding Section A-VI/2 points 5 and 6;
- ◆ Fast Rescue Boat Regulations VI/2.2 and corresponding Section A-VI/2 points 11 and 12;
- ◆ Advanced fire-fighting - Regulation VI/3 and corresponding Section A-VI/3 points 5 and 6.

In this regard, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and properly address it, the CoPs relating to the above-mentioned training courses have been extended with the following conditions:

- a. Extensions are limited to 6 months;
- b. Extensions are granted only to seafarers with adequate experience who have already served in that position and:
 - are serving on board with certification expiring during the course of their employment; or
 - are due to embark and are in possession of expired certificates.

We would therefore like to ask the Secretariat to kindly have this information regarding the extension of the CoPs communicated to all Member States of the IMO. Your valuable attention to this matter is very much appreciated.

The Italian Coast Guard avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

**The General Commander
Vice Admiral (ITCG) Giovanni PETTORINO**

Firmato Digitalmente da/Signed by:
GIOVANNI PETTORINO

In Data/On Date:
venerdì 20 marzo 2020 11:57:38



**Ministry of Infrastructures and
Transport**

*Italian Coast Guard Headquarters
Safety of Navigation and
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Rome, 23rd March 2020
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HE Mr. Kitack Lim
Secretary General of
International Maritime Organization

Subject: Measures to Address Covid-19.

Dear Secretary-General Lim,

Stringent restrictions have been implemented by the Coastal States as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. In its efforts to abide by these restrictions, the Italian Coast Guard Headquarters is facing criticism related in particular to a sharp slowdown of ships going into dry-dock and, in some cases, the banning of ships' access.

Consequently, ships are no longer in the position to start the dry-dock survey by the time required by SOLAS Regulation I/10(a)(v), although it has been demonstrated that the dry-dock was scheduled well in advance.

In adapting to these changes and in order to ensure the ships' safety, the Italian Coast Guard has introduced measures to verify – within the time period established by the current rules - the condition of the bottom of the ships flying the Italian flag.

In particular, in cases of justified impossibility for the ship enter dry-dock, it has been decided that the in dry - dock bottom ship's inspection can be postponed subject to the satisfactory result of an in-water bottom survey. In light of the ongoing emergency situation, this is the approach we will continue to take until 30th June 2020.

We would therefore like to ask the Secretariat to kindly have this information regarding the postponement of the required bottom dry-dock inspection circulated to all Member States of the IMO.

Your valuable attention to this matter is very much appreciated.

The Italian Coast Guard avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

**The General Commander
Vice Admiral (ITCG) Giovanni PETTORINO**
Firmato digitalmente da

GIOVANNI PETTORINO

CN = PETTORINO GIOVANNI
O = Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti
C = IT