

Member State: Latvia	Last Update: 15/05/2020
<input type="checkbox"/> Reporting requirements – Maritime Declaration of Health: refer to changes to the standard process or specific requirements	
<p>The master, owner, operator or agent of the cargo ship shall submit the Maritime Declaration of Health (Annex 8 to the International Health Regulations) to the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control before entering a port of Latvia. This declaration shall be submitted by using the International Freight Logistics and Port Information System (SKLOIS). Persons who are not users of the International Freight Logistics and Port Information System (SKLOIS) shall submit this declaration in any other manner acceptable to the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic: refer to vessel types not allowed to call all/specific ports. Traffic lines suspended. Include the start and scheduled end date of the measures	
<p>None. Not stated.</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/> People: measures taken affecting the movement of crewmembers or passengers – (dis)embarkation, crewmembers not allowed to go ashore, etc.)	

In accordance with Cabinet Order No.103 adopted 12 March 2020 “Regarding Declaration of the Emergency Situation” (<https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/313191-regarding-declaration-of-the-emergency-situation>):

4.16.1. Starting from 17 March 2020 international carriage of passengers via airports, ports, by buses and rail transport shall be prohibited, except for carriage of passengers by State aircraft and military transport, and also private and business flights (if there are no more than five passengers);

4.16.2. Starting from 15 May 2020 international carriage of passengers via airports, ports, by buses and rail transport shall be resumed to Lithuania and Estonia and from Lithuania and Estonia;

4.16.3. The Minister for Transport is entitled to make exceptions in relation to the international carriage of passengers;

4.16.4. The Minister for Transport may determine restrictions on and conditions for performing the international carriage of passengers by air, carriage by sea, carriage by road, and carriage by rail.

4.16.<sup>1</sup> The Investment and Development Agency of Latvia shall provide support to the merchants whose employees need to return to the Republic of Latvia, and also to merchants who, in order to fulfil obligations, need to send employees for work to other European Union Member States or to receive expatriate staff in the Republic of Latvia. The Investment and Development Agency of Latvia shall compile information on the international carriage of persons, and also shall coordinate the submission of information necessary for taking the decision referred to in Sub-paragraph 4.16 of this Order.

4.17. starting from 17 March 2020 movement of persons and vehicles via border crossing points of the external border of the European Union at airports, ports, rail, and motorways, as well as at border crossing points which are provided for the local border traffic shall be prohibited, except for carriage of freight. The Minister for Foreign Affairs or the Chief of the State Border Guard is entitled to make exceptions in relation to the movement of persons and vehicles. The abovementioned prohibition shall not apply to:

4.17.1. the employees of the providers of transport services and carriage of passengers services and to the crews of passenger, freight, technical voyages who arrive in the Republic of Latvia or exit it upon fulfilling work duties;

4.17.2. the passengers referred to in Sub-paragraphs 4.16.1,4.16.2, and 4.16.3 of this Order;

4.17.3. the seamen in order for them to be able to reach their working place on a ship or to return from it;

4.17.4. the foreigners whose arrival in Latvia for fulfilling the obligations of merchants has been confirmed by the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia.

□ Certificates: measures taken with regard expiring ship/crew certificates.

See last section.

□ Inspections: measures taken with regards to PSC, flag state, Security, etc

#### SURVEYS, INSPECTIONS AND AUDITS ON LATVIAN FLAG SHIPS

- Flag State inspections for vessels abroad are suspended **until further notice**; for vessels in Latvia - **Flag State inspection** will only be carried out after careful assessment of the situation with COVID-19.
- In case of reaching deadlines **for ISM/ ISPS/ MLC certification**, the Maritime Safety Inspectorate will either carry out remote verifications or delegate these verifications to the Recognized Organizations, or extend the validity of appropriate certificates.
- Upon request from the Recognised Organisation for extensions for due surveys and statutory conditions/findings, the Maritime Safety Inspectorate may extend the validity of appropriate certificate or statutory conditions/finding for a period of three month by the Recognized Organisation.
- If circumstances would require the issue of new short-term certificates without carrying out surveys/inspections and audits, the validity of such certificates will be valid for three months, and can be applied as a short-term solution only.
- The **surveys and supervision of repair works on domestic ships** will be carried in routine manner except in cases when COVID-19 poses risks to surveyors. Each such case will be assessed individually by the Maritime Safety Inspectorate and solutions will be agreed with shipowner.

#### SERVICE STATIONS AND REPAIR FACILITIES

- The inspection on service stations and repair facilities **will be carried out** in routine manner except in cases posing COVID-19 risks to surveyors.
- Each such case will be assessed separately by Maritime Safety inspectorate and solutions will be agreed with the company.

#### PSC INSPECTIONS ON FOREIGN SHIPS

The PSC inspections on ships having PI and PII are suspended until further notice. In some exceptional cases such as grounding, collision, pollution, erratic manoeuvres and similar, PSC inspection will be carried out after careful assessment of the situation with COVID-19 on a particular ship.

#### SHIPS AND PORT SECURITY INSPECTION

- Security inspections on foreign vessels are **suspended until further notice**;
- Port / port facility security inspections will be resumed remotely to avoid service in person after 14 April 2020 on case by case basis in close corporation with Port / port facility security officer;
- All issued Certificates of Conformity which has expired remain valid until further notice;

- While there is emergency situation declared in Latvia, any information regarding security measures which deviates from the Security Plan must be fully reflected by Security officers in security records.

Any other measure not considered above

### REGISTRY OF SEAMEN (RS)

1. The premises of the Registry of Seamen (thereinafter – Registry) has been determined as **restricted access area**. Procedures of seafarers servicing shall be considerably changed. In-person contact of seafarer with the employees of the Registry shall be restricted up to a minimum. All appointments to the administration of the Registry are cancelled.
2. Starting from 23 March, the entrance in the premises of the Registry shall be allowed only after receiving invitation from the Registry. Only those seafarers who can confirm by entries in the Seaman's Discharge Book, that **more than 2 weeks** have elapsed after they have been signed off from the ship, will be serviced. Seafarers having visually noticeable symptoms of disease will not be serviced. Temperature control test on the entrance for any customer is allowed.

Should you have any questions, please call: + 371 67099419

### TRAINING OF SEAFARERS

1. The implementation of full-time training courses and education programs has been **suspended** in the country. Professional educational programs, as far as possible and practical, will be ensured by distance learning.
2. In cases when a seafarer holds a valid Qualification Certificate (COC or COP) issued in accordance with chapter II, III of the STCW Convention, but if any of training COP or DE issued in accordance with the STCW regulations V/2, VI/1, VI/2, VI/3 or VI/4, has expired during the voyage, the validity of the training course certificate is automatically extended until the end of the declared emergency situation in Latvia or end of the voyage.

### CERTIFICATION OF SEAFARERS

1. Starting from March 23, **no documents shall be accepted in presence**. The operation of **examination commissions is suspended**. Special order for servicing of seafarers is introduced.
2. Only seafarers who are supposed to depart at sea within the **following 30 days' time** (employer's written confirmation) and for whom the revalidation of documents is required shall be served. Re-certification of seafarers for a higher qualification shall not be performed. The validity of only existing qualification documents will be extended.
3. In order to perform **COC revalidation** for Masters or officers and COP revalidation for ratings, the following order shall be determined:
  - A seafarer shall send a request through e-mail, written in a free form, by indicating information about him/her and the reason why he/she would like to prolong the validity of the qualification document, the recruitment company via which they are planning to work and the planned length of the contract. A signed and scanned [application for a qualification certificate](#) (see the form in the Annex), a scanned qualification document (COC, endorsement, or COP for ratings), a scanned medical certificate and a digital photograph is to be enclosed;
  - After receiving a confirmation from the Registry, and the date / time of receipt, a payment shall be made in Netbank to the account indicated by the Maritime Administration of Latvia;
  - On the date and in time determined, the seafarer shall arrive in the Registry and bring the original of the document to be changed (prolonged), Seaman's Discharge Book and the proof that the payment for the service has been made;

- Masters and officers shall have new “endorsement” issued with the extension of validity for 6 months (if refresh courses have not been completed);
- Ratings and refrigeration engineers (who do not have Endorsement) shall have new COP issued with the extension of validity for 12 months.

**Important:** In order prepare and issue Seafarer’s documentation in due time, all aforementioned requirements are to be strictly observed. The exams will not have to be passed.

The application to be send to the following email

addresses: [seafarer@lja.lv](mailto:seafarer@lja.lv) cc: [svetlana.sevcova@lja.lv](mailto:svetlana.sevcova@lja.lv)

#### **DELAY IN VOYAGE**

- Due to the restrictions determined in the countries throughout the world, it is possible that there will not be a possibility to change or repatriate a seafarer in due time.
- In cases when due to force majeure situation a seafarer has to work for a considerable longer period of time that it has been envisaged in the employment agreement and there is a risk that a seafarer will not be signed off till the end of the validity of the qualification documents, the Registry shall issue a document on the extension of the validity of the certificates.
- In order to perform it, the ship owner or the recruitment company shall send to the Registry email address: [jr@lja.lv](mailto:jr@lja.lv), cc: [jazeps.spridzans@lja.lv](mailto:jazeps.spridzans@lja.lv) an officially signed application, which has been prepared on an official form of the company, with a short description of the situation and information about the period of time for which the extension is required and if the extension of the documents will be accepted by the flag state administration of the ship. The copy of the employment agreement has to be attached. On the basis of the application, there will be a scanned (unless required otherwise) confirmation of the extension sent. The confirmation will be issued only if the application contains all required information.
- The order shall not be applied to the cases which the ship owner or the recruitment company could have forecasted.

#### **SEAMAN’S DISCHARGE BOOK**

- When travelling to regions which have visa-free travel from Latvia, the Seaman’s Discharge Book does not give any advantages. There might be the cases when the procedures applicable in port or ship owners require having the Seaman’s Discharge Book.
- Seaman’s Discharge Book will be issued only in the cases of emergency by sending a prior notice to email: [eva.gotfrida@lja.lv](mailto:eva.gotfrida@lja.lv), cc: [verify@lja.lv](mailto:verify@lja.lv), and notifying personal data, contact telephone and by enclosing a scanned statement issued by a company. The inspector shall determine the time and order for document issuing.
- Recruitment companies have the right to issue a statement for receiving a new Seaman’s Discharge Book only in cases of emergency.

#### **MEDICAL CERTIFICATE**

- If the validity of a medical certificate issued in Latvia expires during the voyage, due to unplanned length of it, caused by the consequences of Covid-19 virus, the Administration shall permit to use it for the period of time not exceeding three months till the moment when the seafarer returns to Latvia, provided that the seafarer does not have visible

symptoms of disease. Inversely, Article 6 of Regulation I/9 of STCW Convention is to be strictly complied with.

- In order to ensure the protection of seaman's doctors against Covid-19 virus, a seaman shall have the right to arrive at a seaman's doctor for the purpose of medical certification not earlier than on the 15th day after returning to Latvia from the voyage and provided that the seafarer does not have visible symptoms of disease.