



# MINISTÈRE DE LA MER

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Directorate for Maritime Affairs

Paris, le 28 avril 2020

## FRENCH MARITIME AUTHORITIES MEMO (August 28, 2020 update) *(Courtesy translation)*

**Objet :** Emergency response Covid-19

Extending the validity of safety, security and prevention of ships pollution, social certification, STCW and STCW-F Certificates, endorsements, documentary evidences for seafarers, and maritime education and training institutions approvals, marine medical certificates for seafarers, during the state of health emergency aimed at curbing the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

**Références :**

- Code des transports Art L.5241-4, L.5514-1, L.5514-3, L.5521-1, L.5521-2, L.5547-3 et L. 5549-1
- Loi n° 2020-290 du 23 mars 2020 d'urgence pour faire face à l'épidémie de covid-19 et loi n° 2020-856 du 9 juillet 2020 organisant la sortie de l'état d'urgence sanitaire  
Ordonnance n° 2020-306 du 25 mars 2020 relative à la prorogation des délais échus pendant la période d'urgence sanitaire et à l'adaptation des procédures pendant cette même période
- Décret n°84-810 du 30 août 1984 relatif à la sauvegarde de la vie humaine en mer, à la prévention de la pollution, à la sûreté et à la certification sociale des navires
- Décret n°2015-723 du 24 juin 2015 relatif à la délivrance des titres de formation professionnelle maritime et aux conditions d'exercice de fonctions à bord des navires armés au commerce, à la plaisance, à la pêche et aux cultures marines
- Décret n°2015-1575 du 3 décembre 2015 relatif à la santé et à l'aptitude médicale à la navigation
- Décret n°2019-640 du 25 juin 2019 relatif à l'agrément des organismes de formation professionnelle maritime
- Décret n°2020-260 du 16 mars 2020 portant réglementation des déplacements dans le cadre de la lutte contre la propagation du virus covid-19
- Décret n°2020-370 du 30 mars 2020 complétant le décret n° 2020-293 du 23 mars 2020 prescrivant les mesures générales nécessaires pour faire face à l'épidémie de covid-19 dans le cadre de l'état d'urgence sanitaire
- Décret n°2020-480 du 27 avril 2020 portant mesures d'urgence en matière d'encadrement des activités et professions maritimes
- Lettre circulaire n°4204/Add1 de l'Organisation maritime internationale
- Lettre circulaire n°4204/Add5 de l'Organisation maritime internationale
- Instruction relative au fonctionnement des services de santé au travail pendant l'épidémie de Covid-19 du 17 mars 2020 - DGT



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### 1. Context

France came out from the state of health emergency on July, 11, 2020, excepted for the territories of Guyana and Mayotte. However, specific measures still apply in the functioning of State services and companies, which may continue to affect the renewal or the endorsement of ships certificates as well as the renewal of STCW and STCW-F certificates, training documentary evidences, endorsements, and marine medical certificates for seafarers, which would expire during the period.

Thus, the following provisions are necessary for transport and maritime services to keep going. They consist for the services of the French Maritime Authorities in extending the validity of the various certificates (navigation, controls, social certification, medical aptitude, training ...) essential to ships operations and which cannot be because of the circumstances related to the COVID 19.

This measures are taken in consistency with the international provisions recommended or decided by the IMO on the matter.

### 2. Provisions for French vessels certificates

In compliance with government provisions to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow ships to keep going their operations, the validity of French vessels certificates, including navigation license, expiring after March 12, 2020, is extended from their expiration date, up to six months after the end of the state of health emergency.

The state of health emergency ended on July 10, 2020.

Shipowners will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not necessarily entailing the issuance of a new document, unless specifically requested. A statement of extension of certification can however be issued by the Administration.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, shipyards, classification societies, before this deadline



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### **3. Provisions for STCW and STCW-F certificates, endorsements, documentary evidences for seafarers, and maritime education and training institutions approvals, issued by French maritime authorities**

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow seafarers and ships to keep going their activities, the period of validity of the following documents, expiring from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up to six months after the end of the state of health emergency set by the French law :

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;
- Flag State endorsements issued by the French Maritime authorities ;
- Recognition of professional qualifications certificates for seafarers on fishing vessels and shellfish sector ;
- Maritime education and training institutions approvals.

The state of health emergency ended on July 10, 2020.

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, training centres, before this deadline.

### **4. Provisions for medical certificates issued to seafarers by French maritime authorities**

In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, validity of medical certificates for seafarers essential for ships operations, expiring from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up to six months after the end of the state of health emergency.

The state of health emergency ended on July 10, 2020.

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, seafarers' doctors, before this deadline.



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#### **5. Provision about the providing of information to ships and crews on basic protective measures against COVID-19 based on WHO advice**

Information and guidelines are provided to the French operators and French flagged ships by GRIS-NEZ MRCC as international point of contact for all safety, health and security issues.

These documents are available at the following address : <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/faq-covid-19-mesures-prises-transporteurs-professionnels>

#### **6. Provisions about the maritime transport of passengers in order to deal with the epidemic of covid-19.**

The end of containment took place on May 11, 2020 and transport activities gradually resumed in several phases. The transport of passengers on board cruise ships is subjected to specific general measures to deal with the covid-19 epidemic (see article 6 of decree n ° 2020-860 in reference).

A national transport out of containment protocol was published in June 22, 2020 and specific recommendations for cruising were added.

These documents are available at the following address : <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/covid-19-retrouvé-lensemble-des-actions-engagees-ministere>

These provisions apply to the entire metropolitan territory, Corsica and to the overseas departments and territories taking into account their own powers.

#### **7. Contact :**

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