



MINISTÈRE DE LA MER

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Directorate for Maritime Affairs

Paris, January 10, 2021

FRENCH MARITIME AUTHORITIES MEMO (January 10, 2021 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
- Loi n° 2020-1379 du 14 novembre 2020 autorisant la prorogation de l'état d'urgence sanitaire et portant diverses mesures de gestion de la crise 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
- Décret n° 2020-1257 du 14 octobre 2020 déclarant l'état d'urgence sanitaire
- Lettre circulaire n°4204/Add1 de l'Organisation maritime internationale
- Lettre circulaire n°4204/Add5 de l'Organisation maritime internationale
- Note d'information – Questions relatives au travail maritime et au coronavirus (COVID-19) de l'Organisation internationale du travail (version 2.0)
- 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 was again declared in a state of health emergency from October 17, 2020. The law has set the end of this state of health emergency on February 16, 2021 inclusive. However, specific measures still apply or are reintroduced in the functioning of State services and companies, which may continue to affect the renewal or the endorsement of ship 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 for the operation and which cannot be because of the circumstances related to COVID 19.

These measures are taken in consistency with the international provisions recommended and decided by the IMO and the ILO 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 from March 12, 2020, is extended from this expiration date, up to six months after the end of the state of health emergency.

The end of the state of health emergency was stopped 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 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

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 aforementioned law of March 23, 2020 set for July 10, 2020 :



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- 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.

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 the end of the state of health emergency set by the aforementioned law of November 14, 2020 nowadays set for February 16, 2021 :

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;

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 centers, 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 the end of the state of health emergency set by the aforementioned law of November 14, 2020 nowadays set for February 16, 2021.

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.

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.mer.gouv.fr/coronavirus-covid-19-recommandations-et-conduite-tenir-bord-de-navires-sous-pavillon-francais>



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6. Provision about the maritime 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.mer.gouv.fr/coronavirus-covid-19-recommandations-et-conduite-tenir-bord-de-navires-sous-pavillon-francais>

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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www.mer.gouv.fr/covid-19-retrouvez-les-actions-engagees-par-le-ministere-de-la-mer

www.linkedin.com/showcase/affaires-maritimes/?originalSubdomain=fr