



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS  
AND INSULAR POLICY  
HELLENIC COASTGUARD  
HEADQUARTERS  
SHIPPING POLICY GENERAL DIRECTORATE  
SEAFARERS' LABOUR DIRECTORATE**

Address: : Akti Vasiliadi (Port Gate E1-E2)  
Postal Code: : 185 10, Piraeus  
Information : Lieut. Cdr HCG ANTONAKOU V.  
Tel. No. : ++30 213 137 1108, 1442, 4217  
Fax : ++30 210 413 7042  
Email : [dner.b@hcg.gr](mailto: dner.b@hcg.gr)

Piraeus, 20-03 -2020  
**Prot. No.: 2242.1/ 19566 /2020**  
**MLC,2006 Circ. 07**

**To: Recipients Distribution Table**

**Subject: "Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance relating to the Seafarers' Employment Agreements".**

1. As known, the World Health Organization (WHO) has determined that the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is a pandemic on 11 March 2020. It is evident that stringent border control measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 implemented by states across the world has resulted in shipowners/operators having extreme difficulty in arranging crew changes and repatriating seafarers when their employment agreements (SEAs) expire. Therefore, this Administration allows for the extension of SEAs<sup>1</sup> provided that such an extension is under the seafarer's consent and that all the relative arrangements by the shipowner/operator for repatriation will be undertaken as appropriate at the next available port as soon as conditions allow.

2. In such cases, the extension of the contractual period should be reflected on the corresponding SEA of the affected seafarers, when a new SEA may not be timely arranged, the duration of which (contractual period) shall be mutually agreed. Furthermore, an entry shall be made in the ship's official logbook pertaining to the circumstances and the seafarers whose SEAs have been extended.

3. The present document<sup>2</sup> is recommended to be kept onboard for verification reasons from the competent authorities, as appropriate. In case that a Greek flagged vessel is under port state control being imposed with restrictions for pertinent issues, the Seafarers' Labour Directorate ([dner.b@hcg.gr](mailto: dner.b@hcg.gr)) should be relatively informed. Further to the present document, the [IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5/17 March 2020](#) should also be available onboard.

4. Shipowners' and Seafarers' organisations are requested to advise their members accordingly.

**THE MINISTER**

**PLAKIOTAKIS Ioannis**

<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding the present conditions of extreme necessity, it is in general perceived that PSCOs' actions, when a SEA is extended beyond 11 months, should not, in principle, be to the detriment of the concerned seafarer when there is evidence that the seafarer is aware of his/her right for annual leave and has been provided with the means necessary to exercise it.

<sup>2</sup> which may be downloaded from <http://www.hcg.gr/node/5914>

## **DISTRIBUTION TABLE:**

### **I. RECIPIENTS FOR ACTION:**

1. Union of Greek Shipowners  
E-mail: [ugs@ath.forthnet.gr](mailto:ugs@ath.forthnet.gr)
2. Panhellenic Seamen's Federation  
E-mail: [gram@pno.gr](mailto:gram@pno.gr)
3. Passenger Shipping Companies Association  
E-mail: [seen@ath.forthnet.gr](mailto:seen@ath.forthnet.gr)
4. Short-Sea Shipping Shipowners' Association  
E-mail: [eenma@ath.forthnet.gr](mailto:eenma@ath.forthnet.gr)
5. Panhellenic Union of Shipowners Coastal Cargo Vessels up to 500 GRT.  
E-mail: [gorgo@otenet.gr](mailto:gorgo@otenet.gr)
6. Hellenic Professional Yacht Owners Association  
E-mail: [epest@epest.gr](mailto:epest@epest.gr)
7. Panhellenic Union of Tugboat - Lifeboat Shipowners "O Agios Nikolaos"  
Fax: 210 4124109, 2104413245-2104410813
8. Union of Tugboat-Lifeboat Shipowners  
E-mail: [somat-rk@otenet.gr](mailto:somat-rk@otenet.gr)
9. Panhellenic Union of Tugboat & Lifeboat Crews  
E-mail: [pep.rk.ng@gmail.com](mailto:pep.rk.ng@gmail.com)  
E-mail: [lskaros@yahoo.gr](mailto:lskaros@yahoo.gr)
10. Union of Cruise Shipowners and Associated Members  
E-mail: [info@cruise-union.com](mailto:info@cruise-union.com)
11. Panhellenic Union of Professional Tourist Day-Vessels  
E-mail : [penetis2001@yahoo.gr](mailto:penetis2001@yahoo.gr)
12. Panhellenic Union of Officers and Ratings of Professional – Private Cruise Vessels  
E-mail: [info@thalamigos.gr](mailto:info@thalamigos.gr)

### **II. RECIPIENTS FOR NOTIFICATION**

1. Hellenic Chamber of Shipping  
E-mail: [nee@nee.gr](mailto:nee@nee.gr)
2. Seafarers' Labour Recruitment Office  
E-mail: [info@generg.gr](mailto:info@generg.gr)
4. American Bureau of Shipping (ABS Europe Division)  
E-mail: [abspiraeus@eagle.org](mailto:abspiraeus@eagle.org)
5. Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK)  
E-mail: [pr@classnk.or.jp](mailto:pr@classnk.or.jp)
6. Hellenic Lloyd's (LR)  
E-mail: [piraeus@lr.org](mailto:piraeus@lr.org)
7. Bureau Veritas Registre International De Classification De Navires  
E-mail: [GRC\\_cpi@gr.bureauveritas.com](mailto:GRC_cpi@gr.bureauveritas.com)
8. Germanischer Lloyd Hellas Survey M.E.Π.E. (GL)  
E-mail: [gl-piraeus@gl-group.com](mailto:gl-piraeus@gl-group.com)
9. Det Norske Veritas A.E. (DNV)  
E-mail: [pirmar@dnv.com](mailto:pirmar@dnv.com)
10. Registro Italiano Navale (RINA Hellas)  
E-mail: [piraeus.office@rina.org](mailto:piraeus.office@rina.org)
11. Korean Register of Shipping (KR)  
E-mail: [kr-pru@krs.co.kr](mailto:kr-pru@krs.co.kr)
12. China Classification Society (CCS)  
E-mail: [mjtang@ccs-eu.com](mailto:mjtang@ccs-eu.com)
13. Russian Maritime Register of Shipping (RS)  
Single Member Company Limited  
E-mail: [piraeus.office@rina.org](mailto:piraeus.office@rina.org)

### **III. INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION**

1. Minister's Office
2. General Secretary's Office
3. HCG Commandant - First Deputy HCG Commandant Offices
4. Shipping Policy General Directorate Head Office
5. Ships' Control General Directorate Head Office
6. Maritime Attachés
7. Navigation Safety Directorate – Directorate for Shipping Policy