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BY EMAIL

3 July 2020

To: Nippon Kaiji Kyokai

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Special Arrangement under COVID-19 Pandemic
Procedures for Extending Statutory Certificate beyond 3 months

The Hong Kong Marine Department (“HKMD”) has granted a number of Hong Kong registered ships with less than three (3) months extension of statutory certificates as surveys could not be arranged due to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. If there is no substantial improvement of the situation, further extension may likely be requested by owners of these ships within the next three months.

HKMD has alerted owners of ships having previous extension of certificates granted that applications for further extension beyond statutory maximum shall be submitted through the Recognised Organisations (ROs). ROs need to carry out necessary assessments and make recommendations to HKMD so that the applications could be considered. In addition, HKMD will also provide similar advice to alert owners whose ships are granted with similar extension (i.e. within statutory maximum) first time in future.

To facilitate the above mentioned process, HKMD provides a brief instruction to ROs, which is copied as **Annex 1** to this letter. The instruction is developed in accordance with International Maritime Organization (IMO) Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.19 dated 2 June 2020 incorporating the 6 guiding principles developed by IACS.

For your planning purpose, a list of ships classed with your organization which have been granted dispensation to extend the validity of statutory certificates is enclosed at **Annex 2** to this letter.

Should you have any enquiry, please feel free to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and curves, representing the name S Y CHAN.

(S Y CHAN)
General Manager
Ship Safety Branch
for Director of Marine

Encl.

Annex 1

HKMD Instruction to ROs on Application for Extension of Certificates beyond Statutory Maximum in connection with IMO Circulation Letter No. 4204/Add.19

- Owners have been encouraged to discuss with ROs and please provide detail guidance to them on the documentary proof which constitutes as COVID-19 exceptional circumstances and exhausting all means.
- Scope of occasional/remote survey shall be at least equal to annual surveys of statutory certificates that extension is requested.
- In the case of remote survey, additional documents shall be provided by RO, including ship self-checklist, pictures and/or video, master statement and any other documents as required by RO.
- For postponing docking survey with underwater examination, an internal inspection of the ship's bottom structure where found suspicious of damages noted during underwater inspection;
- For postponing docking survey without underwater examination, an internal inspection of the ship's bottom structure and condition to the maximum extent practicable as determined by the ship's Classification Society is carried out;
- The following information shall be assessed by RO as a minimum:
 - Class survey status and reports (existing Conditions of Class/statutory, Class and Statutory surveys, outstanding condition(s), compartment condition including coating, thickness measurement record, boiler survey record, propeller shaft survey record, any suspect areas, RO fleet monitoring record), ship's logbook and ship's casualty records(if any), the history of voyage;
 - Ship and ISM Company's performance of PSC Regimes shall be reviewed.
 - a signed statement/attestation from the master/and or chief engineer to confirm that the ship is in compliance with the requirements for the relevant instrument and flag notices. Statement shall include the following items:
 - i. there has been no grounding incident or hull damage;
 - ii. Operation and test of the following equipment remains satisfactory:
 - a. anchoring equipment;
 - b. steering gear;
 - c. navigational and communication equipment;
 - d. auxiliaries and main propulsion machinery;
 - e. all essential auxiliary machinery; and
 - f. electrical equipment.
- RO shall submit to HKMD the body of evidence together with a recommendation on how the control measures are to be applied to the operation of the ships for a specified duration, and until physical surveys can be resumed.