



Kiribati Ship Registry

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MARINE CIRCULAR 50/2020

07 April 2020

TO : Ship Owners, Managers, Charterers, Masters, and Port Authorities

SUBJECT : Extension of Seafarers' Employment Agreement (SEA) Service Period & Certificates of Endorsement (COE) Due to COVID-19

PURPOSE

The purpose of this circular is to address the heightened immigration measures and travel restrictions set in place by an increasing number of countries which may result in ship owners experiencing difficulties arranging change of crew when their SEAs expire, as well as difficulties for crew to revalidate their national STCW COC/COP and medical certificates resulting in the expiry of their Kiribati COE whilst still serving on board a Kiribati flagged vessel.

REFERENCES

- 1) Kiribati Marine Circular 49/2020 – Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- 2) Maritime Labour Convention 2006, as amended

APPLICATION

This Marine Circular applies to all crew on board Kiribati flagged vessels.

CONTENT

1) Extension of SEA

- a) International efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19 has led to an increasing number of countries and their port authorities placing immigration restrictions which may result in difficulties for ship owners to arrange change of crew when the SEAs of the crew expire.
- b) To address the issue, the Kiribati Ship Registry wishes to notify all parties concerned that a seafarer's service period may be extended on condition that any such extension is agreed by the seafarer voluntarily in writing and is properly set out in the SEA.

2) Extension of COE

- a) COE that expire due to crew being unable to revalidate their COC, COP and/or MC due to travel restrictions imposed will be able to apply to crew@kiribaship.com to have the COE extended on condition that an official letter issued by the National Authority issuing the COC and/or COP supporting the extension is submitted.
- b) On the failure to produce an official letter of extension by the National Authority, the Kiribati Ship Registry may, on a case-to-case basis, issue a short term dispensation letter to allow the crew to continue to sail in his/her present capacity until the vessel is able to call at the first port where the crew can be replaced or repatriated. Please contact technical@kiribaship.com to apply for a dispensation if required.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Kiribati Ship Registry