



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
General Directorate for Maritime Affairs

Ref No: 25032954/175.01 - 20083

18/03/2020

To : All Turkish Seafarers, Ship owners, Shipping Companies,
Port State Control and Flag State Authorities, Other Individuals Concerned

From : Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
General Directorate for Maritime Affairs

Subject : Extension of validity of Certificate of Competency, STCW Certificates, Seaman's Book of Turkish Seafarers onboard Ships affected by 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Reference: Order of the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs, dated 17 March 2020 with ref. no:19370 on the "Measures in Response to COVID-19 within the Seafarers implementations"

Taking into consideration that in view of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, Turkish seafarers who are currently serving on board ships engaged in the international trade are facing challenges in meeting various statutory requirements. These challenges include the timely repatriation of Turkish seafarers at the end of the period in the seafarer's employment agreement, disembarkation of seafarers who are not able to revalidate their expiring certificates etc.

Turkish Maritime Administration (TMA) has taken actions to decrease the impact of the situation faced by Turkish seafarers and owners and operators to assist the industry in overcoming these challenges due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

In this concept, TMA will grant extension for the validity of their certificate/s for a period not exceeding three months from the date of expiry of the Seaman's Book, Certificates of competencies (COC), GMDSS Radio Operator Certificates (ROC/GOC/REO) and STCW certificates if they meet STCW revalidation requirements.

To receive such extension the following documents shall be submitted by the owner, operator or agency to the Harbour Master offices:

- 1- Application letter from the vessel owner/operator stating the reason for the extension.
- 2- Copy of valid employment contract.

Ahmet Selcuk SERT
On behalf of Minister
Director General