

**Circular 227/2020**

**To:** Owners, Managers, Fleet Managers, Deputy Registrars, Recognized Organizations.

**Subject:** COVID-19 – Extension of mandatory surveys, audits, inspections and validity of statutory certificates.

**Attachment:** [Form 55A Cook Islands Extension request form.](#)

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Summary**

Maritime Cook Islands (MCI) understands that, following the outbreak of COVID-19, an increasing number of countries are implementing travel restrictions and access limitations that are likely to cause delays for -

- Flag States and Recognised Organizations (ROs), in reaching vessels and completing statutory work within the required timeframe; and
- vessels needing to complete docking and servicing of critical equipment according to the requirements of applicable instruments.

MCI will be applying the concept of “force majeure” where statutory work, docking or servicing cannot be carried out in circumstances arising due to COVID-19; in such circumstances MCI may permit extensions, relaxing the standards of the regulations referenced in paragraphs 5.2, 5.3, 5.6, 5.9 and 5.10 of Assembly Resolution 1120(30), as well as any other applicable standards that MCI may deem appropriate.

Owners and managers that are experiencing problems in arranging statutory visits, docking or mandatory servicing of critical equipment may submit an extension request to MCI.

Vessels holding statutory certificates issued by MCI must submit a request in writing to their flag representative (Deputy Registrar and/or Fleet Manager) **not earlier than 30 days before the survey window closing or docking/servicing deadline.**

The written request shall include supporting objective evidence that would justify the application of force majeure; MCI will assess requests on a case by case basis.

Vessels holding statutory certificates issued by an RO on behalf of the Cook Islands must contact the RO to

possible extension recommendations.

MCI would like to highlight that vessels' Owners and Managers will continue to be responsible to maintain safety, environmental and labour standards, according to the applicable instruments, for the entire period of the extension, and are required to report immediately to MCI any technical failure, deficiency or non-conformity arising during the extension period.

MCI will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and take necessary steps to ensure suitable response to the situation, flagged vessels, crew, managers, and owners.

Maritime Cook Islands might amend or cancel this circular at any time taking into consideration any change or advise provided by Authorities in respect to COVID-19 outbreak.

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