

## CIRCULAR DGMM No. 008-2020

**WHEREAS:** Article 1 of the Organic Law of the National Merchant Marine, amended by Decree 120-2016 published on December 17, 2016 establishes: "The purpose of this Law is to establish the regulatory framework of the National Merchant Marine, maritime activities in general, regulate the administration to which it will be subject to; set the powers contained in this Law, the norms and regulations granted to the Maritime Authority, the International Conventions and Agreements ratified by the State of Honduras; especially regarding the development and implementation of maritime policies on security and safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment, training and certification of seafarers; regulate, control and administer records for the flagging of ships and subsequently monitor all technical, administrative and social aspects of said ships".

**WHEREAS:** Circular No. 4204 / Add.1 dated February 19, 2020, titled: COVID 19-Implementation and Compliance with the Relevant IMO Instruments, establishes the following: "... The Flag State authorities, the Port State Control authorities and the control regimes, as well as ship companies and captains, should cooperate, in the current context of the outbreak, to ensure that, where appropriate, passengers can board and disembark, loading operations can be carried out, the ships can enter and leave shipyards to proceed to repairs and surveys, goods and supplies can be loaded, certificates can be issued and crews can take turns."

**WHEREAS:** That within the Declaration dated March 19, 2020, the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), referred: "One of the goals of the IMO, as stated in its Convention, is to ensure availability of shipping services to the commerce of the world, for the benefit of humanity. I urge all IMO Member States to bear this in mind when framing their policy decisions with regard to the coronavirus. Defeating the virus must be the first priority, but global trade, in a safe, secure and environmentally friendly manner must be able to continue, too".

**WHEREAS:** That the Central American and Dominican Republic Regional Contingency Plan of March 2020, under the Central American Integration System (SICA) within component 2.1 titled as Commerce, establishes the following: "In lieu of avoiding products shortages and difficulties in intra-regional trade, it is of great importance, mainly to ensure freedom for the transit of goods and in coordination with COMISCA, strengthen the binational coordination and ensure the proper functioning of regional platforms to support intra-regional trade".

**WHEREAS:** That the intrinsic nature of Open Maritime Registries of merchant ships established in the Honduran Legislation, has as a fundamental priority to offer expedite products & services, competency, and provide legal & judicial security, is essential for ships flying the National Flag so as to be able to participate under the conditions of commercial competitiveness vis-à-vis other States that have the same open registry system within the International Maritime Community.

The General Directorate of the Merchant Marine informs the following to Maritime Authorities, Port State Control authorities, Legal Representatives, Shipowners and the general Public:

**FIRST:** Grant an extension of the validity of the Certificate of Registry of up to thirty (30) days over its original expiration date to Honduran flagged vessels whose Certificate of Registry expires during the State of emergency established in the Executive Decree PCM-021-2020 dated March 15, 2020 including the time extensions that may be carried out through the National Risk Management System (SINAGER) and whose technical certificates in accordance with national and international regulations are in force.

**SECOND:** In order to benefit from the aforementioned, a duly justified request must be sent to the designated email addresses for a legal-technical analysis, for which the results will be timely reverted to the requestor.

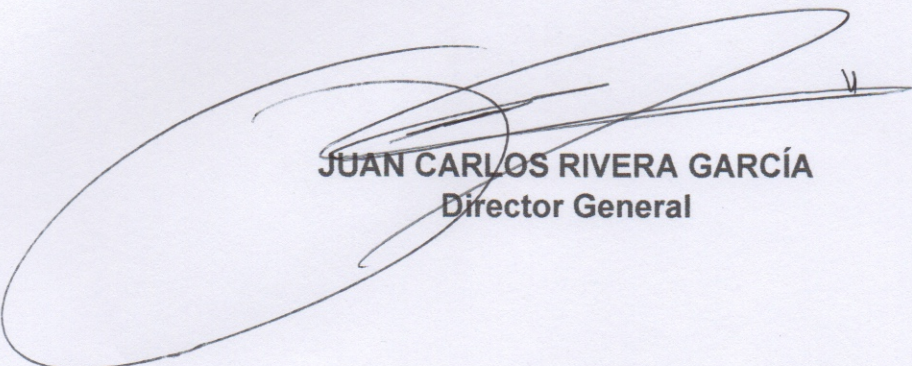
Requests pertaining to the domestic fleet must be sent to the Head of the National Ship Registry Department ([rmedrano@marinamercante.gob.hn](mailto:rmedrano@marinamercante.gob.hn)), copying the Head of the of Maritime Safety Department ([arodriguez@marinamercante.gob.hn](mailto:arodriguez@marinamercante.gob.hn)) and the Legal Department ([msantos@marinamercante.gob.hn](mailto:msantos@marinamercante.gob.hn)). The National Ship Registry Department is responsible to revert with the answers thereof.

Requests regarding the international fleet must be sent to the Head of the International Ship Registry Department ([jflefil@marinamercante.gob.hn](mailto:jflefil@marinamercante.gob.hn)), copying the Head of the of the Maritime Safety Department ([arodriguez@marinamercante.gob.hn](mailto:arodriguez@marinamercante.gob.hn)) and the Legal Department ([msantos@marinamercante.gob.hn](mailto:msantos@marinamercante.gob.hn)). The International Ship Registry Department is responsible to revert with the answers thereof.

**THIRD:** Once the State of emergency has been lifted and operations at the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine are reestablished, all approved beneficiaries of the context offered herein will be contacted so as to be able to immediately request your Certificate of Registry.

**FOURTH:** The objective measures of this Circular may be reviewed in response to guidelines issued by the Central Government through the National Risk Management System (SINAGER).

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C., March 25, 2020.



**JUAN CARLOS RIVERA GARCÍA**  
Director General