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**TO : All Shipowners/ Bareboat Charterers/ Ship Operators/ Ship Managers/ Shipmasters, Officers and Crew of Philippine-Registered Overseas Ships, Licensed Manning Agencies, Recognized Organizations, and Concerned Government Agencies**

**SUBJECT : INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) CIRCULAR LETTERS AS OF 24 MARCH 2022**

Notice is hereby given on the following attached IMO Circular Letters published as of 24 March 2022:

1. **Circular Letter No. 4237/Add.27 (23 March 2022) - *Communication from the Government of the Russian Federation*** – The validity of seafarer's certificates which have expired or are due to expire, are extended to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 inclusive. Whereas the validity of other certificates and STCW documents is extended for three (3) months.
2. **Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.35/Rev.11 (22 March 2022) - *Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Designation of seafarers as key workers*** – Received 65 notifications (MOROCCO) from Member States and two from Associate Members that they have designated seafarers as key workers.
3. **Circular Letter No. 4537 (21 March 2022) - *Communication from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*** – To urge IMO Member States in condemning the Russian Federation's wholly inappropriate use of NAVTEX – a maritime shipping communication system.
4. **Circular Letter No. 4223/Add.8 (21 March 2022) - *Communication from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan*** – Amendments to the adopted procedures for the mitigation of disruption to the delivery of essential services in the event of the COVID-19 pandemic by the State Maritime and Port Agency of Azerbaijan.
5. **Circular Letter No. 4230/Add.15 (15 March 2022) - *Communication from the Government of the Republic of Panama*** – Update regarding Panama's vaccination campaign for all seafarers, regardless of their nationality, whom are on board vessels of all Flag States arriving to Panamanian Ports in Colon and Panama, as well as those awaiting the transit via the Panama Canal.
6. **Circular Letter No. 4535 (15 March 2022) - *Communication from the Government of the Russian Federation*** – Information that customs, border and other types of control of Russian and foreign ships, including the clearance of entry ships into and leaving from the seaports of the Russian Federation is





carried out normally on non-discriminatory basis, including the control with regard to crew members having nationality of Ukraine.

7. **Circular Letter No. 4531 (11 March 2022) - *Decisions of the thirty-fifth extraordinary session of the Council (C.ES/35), 10-11 March 2022*** – Conveys the Council's decision on the impacts on shipping and seafarers of the situation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov; the commitment to take immediate action on the establishment of a blue safe maritime corridor; and, the proposal to reduce the suffering of the seafarers and their families.
8. **Circular Letter No. 4529 (11 March 2022) - *Communication from the Government of the Hellenic Republic*** – Emphasis of Greece against the illegal and politically motivated Turkish Regulations that unilaterally declare a Turkish SAR region which overlaps with parts of Greece's territory and areas of jurisdiction.
9. **Circular Letter No. 4246/Add.11 (10 March 2022) - *Communication from the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar*** – The validity of STCW certificates of Myanmar seafarers serving onboard and engaged on international and near-coastal voyages, that are expiring between 1 April to 30 June 2022 shall be extended to 30 September 2022 without the need to submit application at the DMA.
10. **Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.4/Rev.4 (28 February 2022) - *Coronavirus (COVID-19) – ICS Guidance for ship operators for the protection of the health of seafarers*** – Updated version of the Guidance for ship operators for the protection of the health of seafarers, prepared by the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).
11. **Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.44 (28 February 2022) - *Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Joint IMO/ ILO/ UNCTAD/ WHO statement urging continued collaboration to address the crew change crisis, safeguard seafarer health and safety, and avoid supply chain disruptions during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic*** – Call to take ten critical actions, which include, among others, providing seafarers with access to medical care, designate them as key workers and prioritize their vaccination; stressing the importance of concerned collaborative efforts to keep seafarers safe and limit disruption to supply chains.
12. **Circular Letter No. 4504 (24 February 2022) - *World Maritime Day and Day of the Seafarer, 2022*** – Information regarding World Maritime Day on 29 September 2022 and the 2022 World Maritime Day Parallel Event to be celebrated in South Africa, with this year's theme "New technologies for greener shipping". Whereas, the annual Day of the Seafarer will be celebrated on 25 June 2022.
13. **Circular Letter No. 4220/Add.13 (24 February 2022) - *Update on the status of the International Maritime Organization Headquarters building and telecommuting arrangements due to the COVID-19 pandemic*** – Advisory on





measures regarding access to the Headquarters building, effective 28 February 2022.

14. **Circular Letter No. 4513 (21 February 2022) - *Communication from the Government of the Republic of Iraq*** – Information on the Note Verbal No.2125/3/5/9 dated 15/2/2022 addressed to the Embassy of the State of Kuwait regarding the protest of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq against the illegal measures taken by Kuwaiti patrols against the commercial ship (MV. CAPE AKRITAS).
15. **Circular Letter No. 4385/Add. 1 (11 February 2022) - *Communication from the Government of the Republic of Fiji*** – Extension of STCW Certificates for Fijian Seafarers
16. **Circular Letter No. 4509 (11 February 2022) - *Communication from the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu*** – Provides information on the measures being taken by Republic Vanuatu on the alleged illegal Vanuatu Shipping Registry - VMR

Copy of the Circular Letters may be viewed at or downloaded from <https://marina.gov.ph/marina-advisory-flag-state-administration-advisory/>.

Attention is therefore invited for all Philippine overseas shipping companies, shipowners, and other concerned maritime entities to observe any action/s you may deem appropriate.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

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