

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.4385/Add 1
11 February 2022

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Fiji**

The Government of the Republic of Fiji has sent the attached communication, dated 2 February 2022, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



Our ref: MS5 (01)

("By Email")

02nd February 2022

His Excellency Kitack Lim
Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR

Dear Excellency,

**RE: EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF STCW CERTIFICATES, STCW SHORT COURSES AND
MEDICAL CERTIFICATES**

The Fiji Government through the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) extends its greetings to the Secretary General and the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and expresses its full support in your call to adopt and apply practical and pragmatic approach to ensure uninterrupted flow of commerce by sea at this unprecedented time.

We fully recognize and note the IMO Secretary General, in his message to the Member States implores the aid of the maritime administration to consider the seafarers as essential workers during this unprecedented time.

In view thereof, MSAF has issued another Marine Notice 03/2022 providing further extension of the validity of the STCW Certificates, STCW Short Courses and Medical Certificates as a temporary contingency measure amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. This measure adapts to the IMO Circular Letter No 4204/Add.5/Rev.1 dated 02 April 2020 which encourages the issuing Administration and the Port State Control authorities to take a pragmatic and practical approach with regard to the extension of the validity of seafarer's certificate and endorsement, as strictly necessary, in accordance with the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended.

Relative thereto, we respectfully request the assistance of IMO to bring this information to the attention of all concerned through circulation of the attached Marine Notice.

The Fiji Government expresses its highest cooperation in your effort to ensure continuous flow of commerce by sea amidst this pandemic.

Yours faithfully

David Kolutagane
Executive Chairman

CENTRAL & EASTERN DIVISION
414 Victoria Parade, Kadavu Hse, Level 4
P.O. Box 326 Suva
Telephone: (679) 331 5266
Fax: (679) 330 3251/ (679) 331 3127

NORTHERN DIVISION
Labasa Government Wharf
P.O. Box 3704, Labasa
Telephone: (679) 881 1177
Fax: (679) 881 1177
www.msaf.com.fj

WESTERN DIVISION
11 Tui Street, Lautoka
P.O. Box 316, Lautoka
Telephone: (679) 666 1229
Fax: (679) 666 7433



MARINE NOTICE

03/2022

EXTENSION OF STCW CERTIFICATION FOR FIJIAN SEAFARERS

1. The COVID-19 pandemic, has severely affected the conduct of trainings, revalidation of certificates, and ship to shore interactions including effecting crew changes.
2. In response thereto, the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) adopts IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5/Rev.1 dated 02 April 2020 which encourages the issuing Administration and the Port State Control authorities to take a pragmatic and practical approach with regard to the extension of the validity of seafarer's certificates and endorsements, as strictly necessary, in accordance with the STCW Convention, 1978 as amended.
3. In view thereof, the following guidelines relative to the extension of the validity of the STCW certificates are hereby issued.
 - (a) All Port States, Ship Owners, Operators, Ship Agents, Pilots, Masters and crews are hereby advised that the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) is further extending the duration of the following Maritime Documents:
 - Standards of Training Certification and Watch-keeping (STCW) certificates;
 - STCW Short Courses; and
 - Medical Certificates
 - (b) All Fiji STCW certificates, inclusive of relevant endorsements expired within the period stated on Marine Notice 14/2021, Marine Notice 26/2021 and Marine Notice 34/2021 will be further extended to 10 August, 2022.
 - (c) The concerned licensed manning agencies and shipping companies are required to ensure that the crew are compliant with the above-mentioned STCW requirements, and are hereby directed to submit to MSAF the list of their crew members whose validity of STCW certificates have been extended pursuant to this Marine Notice (**refer Attachment - template**).
4. All seafarers are hereby encouraged to revalidate their Certificates of Competency (COC) and Certificates of Proficiencies (COP) after completing their online/face to face courses, as applicable to their certificate at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the standard requirements for revalidation. In which case, the 5 year validity date shall be taken from the original expiration date of the previous certificate.
5. **This Notice supersedes and revokes Marine Notice 34/2021.**
6. For further information, please contact Seson Komaisoso (Manager Ships Inspection) on email address skomaisoso@msaf.com.fj or Mobile No. 9981219 or Nanise Rabe (Acting Manager Qualification & Licensing) on email: nrabea@msaf.com.fj or Mobile No. 9906336.

SESONI KOMAISOSO
MANAGER SHIPS INSPECTION

Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji
Level 4, Kadavu House, Victoria Parade
02 February 2022
