



Merchant Marine Notice MMN-20-003

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To: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, SHIP OWNERS/ISM OPERATORS/RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS/  
SHIPPING AGENTS/GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS

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Reference: BELIZE (IMMARBE) Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Temporary Measures

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Issuance Date: 29 April 2020

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## **1. PURPOSE**

To inform all concerned parties of the current situation and temporary measures to be taken by the Belize Flag Administration through its Technical Department due to the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

## **2. BACKGROUND**

On December 31st, 2019, the first outbreak known globally as the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) was reported in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of the People's Republic of China.

On January 30th, 2020 the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and issued a set of Temporary Recommendations.

On January 31st, 2020 the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has issued the Circular Letter No. 4204 to provide information and guidance on the precautions to be taken to minimize risks to seafarers, passengers and others on board ships from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This information and guidance are based on recommendations developed by the WHO.

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On February 19th, 2020 an addendum to above mentioned circular was issued (Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.1) providing advice on Implementation and Enforcement of Relevant IMO Instruments.

On February 21st, 2020 another addendum (Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.2) was issued containing the Joint Statement IMO-WHO dated February 13th, 2020 on the response to the COVID-19 Outbreak and encourages Member States and International Organizations to disseminate it as widely as possible.

On the 2nd and 5th of March 2020 two more addendums (Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.3 and Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.4 respectively) were issued containing Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases/outbreak on board ships and International Chamber of Shipping Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for ship operators for the protection of the health of seafarers.

On March 11th, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) has officially declared the outbreak of novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19, a pandemic.

After the declaration of a COVID-19 pandemic by the WHO, the IMO had launched the following addendums to the Circular Letter No. 4204. These addendums are listed below:

- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5rev1 (2 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Guidance relating to the certification of seafarers and fishing vessel personnel.
- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.6 (27 March 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Preliminary list of recommendations for Governments and relevant national authorities on the facilitation of maritime trade during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.7 (3 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Guidance concerning unforeseen delays in the delivery of ships.
- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.8 (14 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Video meeting with port State control (PSC) regimes (includes joint statement and statements and/or relevant temporary guidance issued by the United State, the Acuerdo de Viña del Mar and the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, Paris and Tokyo MOUs.



- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.9 (16 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Joint Statement IMO-WCO on the integrity of the global supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.10 (22 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Joint Statement IMO-WHO-ILO on medical certificates of seafarers, ship sanitation certificates and medical care of seafarers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.11 (24 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – EC Guidelines on protection of health, repatriation and travel arrangements for seafarers, passengers and other persons on board ships.
- Circular Letter No.4204/Add.12 (27 April 2020) – Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Declaration by Port Authorities Roundtable (PAR) members in view of the global COVID-19 situation.

**Note: Circular Letter No.4202 with its addendums can be revised by accessing the following link:**

<http://www.imo.org/en/mediacentre/hottopics/pages/coronavirus.aspx>

### 3. CONTENT

In view of the outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) causing complications for the regular shipping operation, traveling restrictions and the fast spread extended to several countries, the Belize Administration (IMMARBE) through its Technical Department has taken decisive temporary measures related to Implementation and Enforcement of IMO Instruments due to force majeure.

### 4. TEMPORARY MEASURES

4.1. IMMARBEL is prepared to grant extension on mandatory surveys and audits (SOLAS, MARPOL, Load Line, ISM, ISPS, MLC, 2006, etc.) up to July 31st, 2020 based on the following:

4.1.1. Requests shall be submitted by the Recognized Organization in charge of the mandatory certification supporting this extension.



4.1.2. Recognized Organizations shall submit temporary measures based on their procedures and requirements to be followed on board in order to keep the vessel in good standings during this period.

4.1.3. Shipowners/Operators shall submit the Self-Inspection Checklist in accordance with our Merchant Marine Notice 19-006 through the Recognized Organization as evidence of the proper self-inspection onboard confirming the good standing of the vessel.

4.2. IMMARBEL is prepared to grant dry-docking extension up to July 31st, 2020 based on the following:

4.2.1. Request shall be submitted by the Deputy Registrar of the vessel using the form TDF-006.

4.2.2. The request shall contain a shipyard rejection letter due to COVID-19 along with a written confirmation of acceptance issued by the Recognized Organization.

Any request for dry-docking extension not related to the COVID-19 must comply with the parameters stated in our Merchant Marine Notice 18-001.

4.3. All extensions granted in accordance with the previous version of this notice (MMN-20-002) can be further extended until July 31st, 2020 based on the previous compliance with all requirements set in above items 4.1 and 4.2 by submitting the following:

4.3.1. An affidavit signed by owners/operators confirming unavailability to comply with the previous date granted and that the situation remains unchanged.

4.3.2. Written statement from the Recognized Organization confirming not to have any inconvenience with the new extension.

**Note: These temporary measures will be ceased to be valid as soon as the World Health Organization (WHO) declares that the pandemic is finalized, and the risk is over but might be revised and the period extended if the situation remains.**



## 5. ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES

Any vessel falling under above detailed temporary measures shall be provided with electronic certificates by the authorized RO to be valid until July 31st, 2020 with the intention to keep a valid certificate on board.

Upon completion of above period and as soon as all mandatory surveys/audits can be performed in accordance with Item 5.6 "Revalidation of Certificates" of IMO Resolution A.1053(27) "Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), 2011, any electronic certificate issued under these temporary measures must be replaced by a compliance certificate maintaining the current ship's certification cycle.

## 6. ACTIONS REQUESTED

The Belize Administration would like to encourage all Shipowners, Operators, Deputy Registrar and Recognized Organizations to take note of the contents of this Notice and to ensure its provisions are enforced on board vessels registered at IMMARBE as deemed necessary.

Any queries related to this Notice should be directed to: Eng. Eduardo Simon  
Technical Manager  
IMMARBE HEAD OFFICE  
E-mail: [technicalofficer@immarbe.com](mailto:technicalofficer@immarbe.com)



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This Merchant Marine Notice is to be brought to the attention of Owners/ISM Operators, Masters and Recognized Organizations and be implemented forthwith.

Look forward for your cooperation and assistance.

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The Notice was issued in Belize city, Belize      29/04/2020

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Eng. Eduardo Simon  
Technical Manager  
IMMARBE



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Annette Garel (Mrs.)  
Senior Deputy Registrar  
IMMARBE