



Merchant Marine Notice MMN-24-003

To: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, SHIP OWNERS/ISM OPERATORS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS/RECOGNIZED SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS

Reference: **Guidance for the Issuance of Short-Term and/or Extended Certificates by Recognized Organizations.**

Issuance Date: 26/3/2024

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1. REFERENCE

- Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), 2023 (Resolution A.1186(33)).
- Duties of Surveyors under Statutory Conventions and Codes, IACS Rec. No. 98 2007/ Rev.3 2019.
- Code for Recognized Organizations (RO Code) Resolution MEPC.237(65) and MSC.349(92).

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this notice is to guide Recognized Organizations, ISM Operators and Deputy Registrars on the requirement for the issuance of short-term and/or extended certificates and Dispensations to vessels flying the flag of Belize.

3. BACKGROUND

The main purpose of Surveys is to ensure that ships and their equipment are maintained to conform with the provisions of International and National Safety Regulations and to ensure that in all respects vessels will remain fit to proceed to sea without endangering the

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ship, the environment, or persons on board. Nevertheless, under exceptional circumstances, vessels might have items which are not in a satisfactory condition, and which cannot be rectified at the vessel's current location. In such cases, the Administration may grant the Recognized Organization permission to issue the vessel with short-term and/or extended certificates as defined in subsection four (4) subject to Administrative agreement.

These permissions shall only be granted where such action(s) is determined to be reasonable and proper to do so. In such circumstances, the existing certificate(s) should be downgraded and the short-term, or extended certificate(s), which stipulates any special conditions, should be issued.

Note

Short-Term and/or Extended Certificates can only be issued if the deficiency(ies) is not considered a risk for navigation, the environment, and seafarers. Any deficiency(ies) considered as a risk, will lead to the withdrawal of the relevant certificate(s) until the deficiency(ies) is fully rectified.

4. DEFINITION

Full-Term Certificate:

As per Resolution A.1186(33), Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), 2023, a Full-Term Certificate is a certificate issued to a ship upon satisfactory completion of an initial or renewal survey and shall have a maximum period of validity of five (5) years for all cargo ship certificates and one (1) year for passenger ships. A Full-Term Certificate may only be issued or reissued if a vessel, in all respects, complies with the requirements of the relevant certificate.

Short-Term Certificate:

A Short-Term Certificate is a certificate issued for a period of validity which is less than that of a Full-Term Certificate. A Short-Term Certificate can be used to grant a short period for the rectification of any deficiency which cannot be repaired immediately; allowing the vessel to proceed to sea provided that such permission does not endanger the ship, or persons on board, and does not present an unreasonable threat of harm to the environment.

Extended Certificates:

SOLAS and other mandatory IMO instruments permit the Administration to extend vessel



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certificates in special circumstances. For example, "If a ship at the time when a certificate expires is not in a port in which it is to be surveyed, if the vessel is at sea when the certificate expires or if a vessel cannot comply with the requirements due to *force majeure*.

5. ACTIONS REQUIRED

5.1 AUTHORIZATION

5.1.1 All Recognized Organizations authorized to act on behalf of the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize, shall, upon confirmation of conditions affecting the validity of a full-term certification and which cannot be rectified at the survey port, notify the Administration of such conditions.

5.1.2 If appropriate, the RO shall request authorization from the Administration to downgrade the vessel's full-term certificate(s) to short-term or extended certificate(s).

5.1.3 The RO shall provide the Administration with all alternative arrangements or supporting documentation as may be necessary in support of such a request.

5.2 DISPENSATION LETTER

5.2.1 Every short-term and/or extended certificate(s) issued by an authorized RO due to a deficiency or defect which cannot be immediately rectified shall be accompanied by a Dispensation Letter issued by the Administration.

5.2.2 Request for dispensations shall be submitted by the Deputy Registrar of the vessel in accordance with the procedures outlined in Merchant Marine Notice ([MMN-19-002](#) in its latest revision) concerning *Technical Certificates Requirements*.

6. CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Short-Term and/or Extended Certificates shall not be issued without the previous authorization of the Administration.

6.2 The Certificate shall clearly state the name "Short-Term" with a notation listing the deficiencies under which such Certificate(s) has been granted.

6.3 A Short-Term Certificate shall not be seen by the Recognized Organization as a means for allowing the vessel to proceed to sea in an unseaworthy condition.



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ACTIONS REQUESTED

This Administration would like to urge all Shipowners, ISM Operators, Recognized Organizations, Recognized Security Organizations and Deputy Registrars to take note of the contents of this Notice and to ensure its provisions are enforced.

IMMARBE anticipates your cooperation and assistance.

The Notice was issued in Belize City, Belize 26 March 2024.

A blue ink signature of Eng. Eduardo Simon, written in a cursive style.

Eng. Eduardo Simon
Technical Manager
IMMARBE



A blue ink signature of Annette Garel (Mrs.), written in a cursive style.

Annette Garel (Mrs.)
Senior Deputy Registrar
IMMARBE

Any queries related to this Notice should be directed to technicalservices@immarbe.com