

### VALIDITY OF SEAFARERS' CERTIFICATES POST THE STATE OF DISASTER

ALL SHIP MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, OWNERS AND OPERATORS, SEAFARERS, MARITIME TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, EXAMINERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

|                   |             |                    |                                 |                  |               |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>ISSUE DATE</b> | 03 Aug 2022 | <b>EXPIRY DATE</b> | 02 Aug 2023 or unless withdrawn | <b>REFERENCE</b> | SM6/5/2/1/MIN |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|

#### Marine Information Notice's and /or Marine Notice's affected

|                                 |          |                                  |                |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Cancelled or superseded:</i> | MIN 7-21 | <i>Read in conjunction with:</i> | Not Applicable |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------------|

#### SUMMARY

This Marine Information Notice seeks to advise Seafarers, employers and crewing agencies of the process to obtain documents to extend the validity of certificates issued in accordance with the Merchant Shipping (Training, Certification and Safe Manning) Regulations 2021

#### Background and Introduction

- Following the 2020, outbreak of the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, the state of disaster regulations was repealed on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- The requirement for extension of certificates in terms of COVID are therefore no longer applicable.

#### Validity and Revalidation of Certificates

##### STCW Certificates and Port Operations Certificates

- All certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency for seagoing vessels (other than fishing vessels) and port operations vessels shall be revalidated as required by the Regulations using the appropriate forms. Persons working on port operations by virtue of holding certificates issued under the Examination Regulations for Certificate of Competency as Marine Motorman, 1993 shall ensure that they have revalidated their certificates and such are endorsed accordingly.

#### Discontinuation of the Extension of Certificates Service

- The extension of Certificates is discontinued, the online system will be disabled.

#### Certificates issued by SAMSA Accredited Training Institutions

- The provision of this paragraph applies to all course completion certificates issued in accordance with the Merchant Shipping (Training, Certification and Safe Manning) Regulations, 2021, by institutions accredited by SAMSA.
- SAMSA accredited institutions may not issue extension of course completion certificates

#### Validity of Medical and Eyesight Certificates

- Validity of all Medical and Eyesight certificates shall be in accordance **with** the certificate.

#### Extension of Validity and Revalidation of Fishing and Boating Certificates

- SAMSA continues to experience ongoing technical delays pertaining to the issue of the se certificates.

## Fishing Certificates

9. Certificates of Competency issued under the 1993 Regulations (Fishermen and Marine Motormen) remains valid for service until 30 June 2023.
10. Fishers who are able to revalidate their certificate are encouraged to do so at the earliest possible time.
11. Fishers who hold the old format certificates issued under the 1993 Regulations may apply for conversions using the form appended to this Marine Information Notice - only fully issued certificates may be converted. Where a candidate produces the old TV5/106<sup>1</sup> form as proof of qualification - the PO shall cause an investigation into the veracity of the same and reasons why the certificate has not been issued before the same may be converted.

## Validity of Small Vessel Interim Certificate of Competency

12. The COVID-19 Pandemic is affecting the issuance of the National Small Vessel Certificate of Competency (skipper's licences) and has caused delays to issuance of certificates from 15 December 2019.
13. The **Small Vessel Interim Certificates of Competence** which is valid for a period of six months, issued by SAMSA and external participants in the National Small Vessel Examination Regime are extended until 31 July 2023. Boaters that intend using expired interims need to keep a copy of this marine notice as proof that the certificates as mentioned before has been extended when confronted by enforcement officers, gatekeepers, or officials at launching sites.

## **Closing**

14. Enquiries regarding this Marine Information Notice may be directed to the Chief Examiner via e-mail to [exams@samsa.org.za](mailto:exams@samsa.org.za)

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<sup>1</sup> "Authority for the handing over of a certificate of competency or qualification"