During this time of uncertainty that has been caused by COVID-19, and in line with the advice from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), AMSA has taken a pragmatic approach to seafarer certification. As a result, AMSA has implemented arrangements to:

**Extend**: the expiry date of all AMSA issued STCW certificates and associated endorsements, expiring between 26 March and 1 October 2020, for a period of six months from the expiry date noted on the certificate.

**Extend**: the validity of AMSA issued certificates of safety training, expiring between 26 March and 1 October 2020, for a period of six months from the expiry date.

**Extend**: the validity of AMSA issued certificates of medical fitness expiring between 26 March and 1 October 2020, for a period of six months from the expiry date.

**Enable**: owners and masters of ships to permit personnel subject to above, to continue performing duties.

### Applying Procedure for AMSA for the certificates

There is no requirement for vessel owners, operators or seafarers to apply to AMSA for the above measures to be used.

### Revalidation of expired certificates

1. The above measures apply to all AMSA issued STCW certificates. However, those seafarers who meet the eligibility requirements for revalidation, and have the ability to make an application before the expiry date of the certificate, are strongly encouraged to apply to revalidate their certificate before it expires.

2. Please note that when the time comes to revalidate an expired certificate, the new replacement certificate will be issued for a period of five years from the original certificate expiry date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Extension Period</th>
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| 1       | Australia | During this time of uncertainty that has been caused by COVID-19, and in line with the advice from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), AMSA has taken a pragmatic approach to seafarer certification. As a result, AMSA has implemented arrangements to:

  **Extend**: the expiry date of all AMSA issued STCW certificates and associated endorsements, expiring between 26 March and 1 October 2020, for a period of six months from the expiry date noted on the certificate.

  **Extend**: the validity of AMSA issued certificates of safety training, expiring between 26 March and 1 October 2020, for a period of six months from the expiry date.

  **Extend**: the validity of AMSA issued certificates of medical fitness expiring between 26 March and 1 October 2020, for a period of six months from the expiry date.

  **Enable**: owners and masters of ships to permit personnel subject to above, to continue performing duties.

  **Applying Procedure for AMSA for the certificates**

  There is no requirement for vessel owners, operators or seafarers to apply to AMSA for the above measures to be used.

  **Revalidation of expired certificates**

  1. The above measures apply to all AMSA issued STCW certificates. However, those seafarers who meet the eligibility requirements for revalidation, and have the ability to make an application before the expiry date of the certificate, are strongly encouraged to apply to revalidate their certificate before it expires.

  2. Please note that when the time comes to revalidate an expired certificate, the new replacement certificate will be issued for a period of five years from the original certificate expiry date. |
| 2. | Bangladesh | **Seafarer's Certification:**
Certificates of Competency (CoC) and Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) which will be expired before 30th April 2020 will be granted a general extension till 30th June 2020. Seafarers will not be required to apply for the extension. Consideration will be given to allow seafarers who hold foreign issued Certificates of Competencies (CoC) to continue serving onboard Bangladesh Registered ships, if they are unable to revalidate their CoC before the expiry date due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Bangladesh Registered Ships owners and managers may submit such request in-writing to Department of shipping (Dos), accompanied with a confirmation of continued validity from the issuing authority of the seafarer's CoC.

**Minimum Safe Manning Document (MSMD)**
Where it can be demonstrated that a crew member is required to depart a vessel owing to the Covid-19 and unable to be replaced, exemptions to MSMD will be considered on a case by case basis and should be supported by risk assessments from the company.

**Medical certificate:**
If a medical certificate expires whilst the seafarer is at sea, the certificate is allowed to remain in force until the next port of call where the seafarer can obtain a medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner. This is permitted for up to 30th June 2020. If a seafarer is urgently required to join a ship with an expired medical certificate; the Department of Shipping (DoS) must be contacted to request permission.

**Continues Discharge Certificate (CDC):**
Continues Discharge Certificate (CDC) which will be expired before 30th April 2020 will be granted a general extension till 30th June 2020. Seafarers will not be required to apply for the extension.

**Extension of Seafarers Employment Agreements (SEA):**
The Seafarers Employment Agreements (SEA) should remain valid. The company should explain to the seafarers as to why they need to remain on board. If any of the SEA's have expired, they need to be
extended or new ones issued. The company needs to ensure that the seafarers are sent home at the first available opportunity. Evidence should be retained by both the seafarer and the Company clearly demonstrating the reason why the Seafarer was asked to extend their contract.

**Extension of mandatory surveys, audits and expiry of statutory certificates:**
Statutory certificates which will be expired before 30th April 2020 will be granted a general extension till 30th June 202A. Owners or operators of Bangladesh Registered ships will not required applying for the extension.

**Port State Control Measures.**
Port State Control officers are instructed to take a pragmatic and practical approach in relation to these certificates and endorsement extensions and their acceptance in the exercise of Port State Control procedures.

### 3. France

**Emergency provisions planned**
In compliance with government provisions to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow ships to keep going their operations, the validity of French vessels certificates, including navigation license, expiring during the period of the state of health emergency are extended from this expiration date, **up to three months** after the end of the state of health emergency.

The safety management certificates (ISM), safety certification (ISPS) and social certification (MLC and ILO188), may be kept valid according to the instruction STEN INST / 001 of 03/09/2020 (annexed to this notice) Provisions for STCW and STCW-F certificates, endorsements, documentary evidences for seafarers, and maritime education and training institutions approvals, issued by French maritime authorities:

**In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow seafarers and ships to keep going their activities, the period of validity of the following documents is extended from the end of their validity until three months after the end of the state of health emergency set by the French law:**
- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved;
- Flag State endorsements issued by the French Maritime authorities;
- Recognition of professional qualifications certificates for seafarers on fishing vessels and shellfish sector;
- Maritime education and training institutions approvals. This extension only applies to documents whose validity has expired during the health emergency period.

**Provisions for medical certificates issued to seafarers by French maritime Authorities:**
In compliance with Government measures to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, validity of medical certificates for seafarers essential for ships operations expiring during the period of the state of emergency are extended from the end of their validity up to three months after the end of the state of health emergency.

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<th>4.</th>
<th>India</th>
<th><strong>Actions for the force majeure arising due to COVID-19</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>Extension of service beyond the COC/COE/COP revalidation deadline:</strong></td>
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<td>The COC I COE I COP of seafarers, who are currently sailing onboard Indian flagged vessels and Indian seafarers sailing on foreign Flag ships, whose COC / COE / COP are about to expire stands extended for a maximum period of One month or till they sign off, whichever is earlier.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>Safe Manning Document (SMD) and exemptions to SMD:</strong></td>
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<td>Where the Ship owners/Operators/Managers need to sign-off a crew member from a vessel due to the port restrictions at some ports and travel restrictions and the Ship owners/Operator/Manager is unable to repatriate them, exemptions to Safe Manning Documents will be considered on a case by case basis. Each request should be supported by risk assessment from the company. There will be no fees charged for these exemptions and exemptions will be issued on email.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td><strong>Extension of mandatory surveys, audits and expiry of statutory certificates:</strong></td>
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| | Consideration for the issuance of extension of mandatory statutory surveys, inspections and DOC/SMC/MLC/ISPS audits for a maximum period of 3 months under 'force majeure' due to the
COVID 19 situation, will be granted provided necessary justification submitted for approval.
For extension of requests for DOC/SMC/MLC/ISPS and inspections, the application need to be submitted much before the due date of the inspection / audits or expiry date of concerned statutory certificates in order to avoid issues arising out of PSC. There will be no fees charged for these extensions/exemptions and extensions/exemptions will be issued on email.

4. In so far as extension of dry-docking surveys / periodical / annual / renewal surveys are concerned, if practicable, the Class may carryout necessary inspections for the purpose of the proposed extension of surveys. If the Class is finding it impractical to carry out certain inspections due to the prevailing conditions in various ports / countries, they may issue the requested survey extension with proper justification after obtaining an undertaking from the Master of the vessel for the satisfactory condition of the vessel and verification of survey records, as deemed appropriate. For extension of surveys, the online payment of applicable fees, as being done currently, shall continue.

In order to avoid misuse of the aforesaid relaxations, the ship owner / managers will have to keep the records to be verified during the next scheduled audit of the ship / company and penal action may be initiated, if found unjustified.

Circular Addendum No.1 to DGS Order 6 of 2020
Regarding Extension to the validity of seafarers' coc and Statutory certificates, periodical Surveys and Audits of Indian Registered Ships in view of covID 19 outbreak.

1. considering the prevailing COVID - 19 situation and even without any specific guidance from 'IMO with regards to extension of survey/inspection/audits and certification, the Directorate vide DGS order 6 of 2020, allowed extension of surveys/audits/inspections by RO for a period of 3-months after obtaining undertaking from the Master of the vessel for the satisfactory condition of the vessel and verification of past survey records, as deemed appropriate.
2. However, taking into cognizance IMo circular Letter No. 4204/Add.5 dated 17 March 2020, and also considering that many seafarer due for sign off are unable to do so due to the current situation created by COVID-19 and that their coc/cop/coE may be expiring and that they should not be forced to unnecessarily sail on vessels on the pretext of non-availability of seafarers or sign-off opportunity, the Directorate allowed extension of the validity of coc/cop/coE issued to a those seafarers for a limited period of one month. This extension was applicable to all those who were sailing onboard Indian flagged vessels and also Indian seafarers who were sailing on foreign Flag ships at the time of issue of the Order by a period of one month only and without any preconditions or submissions of request for the same.

3. Now after taking stock and assessing of the emerging COVID-19 situation, the Directorate hereby extends the expiry date of all STCW Certificates (includes the training certificates i.e., certificates required under Chapter YI of the STCII) and associated endorsements issued by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) which are expiring between 23'd March and 1' October 2020 (both dates inclusive), for a period of 6 (six) months from the expiry date printed/typed on the relevant certificate (COC/COP/COE). However, all those seafarers who meet the eligibility requirements for revalidation may make an application after the lifting of the lockdown period, to the Mercantile Marine Department for revalidation of their certificate of COC/COP/COE. Further, whenever the revalidation of the expired certificate is to be carried out, the new validity shall be issued for a period of five years from the original certificate expiry date.

4. There is no need to approach the DGS for any confirmation email of extension but may retain a copy of this order onboard for the guidance of officials should it be required.

5. The above extension is in the view of the prevailing extraordinary circumstances of the worldwide spread of COVID-19 and the country wide lockdown. The other part of DGS Order 6 of 2020 stand as it is.

Addendum No.2 to DGS Order 6 of 2020.

1. Vide DGS Order 6 of 2020, the Directorate has laid down the process of extension of mandatory surveys,
inspections and audits by a period of 3-months under 'Force Majeure 'brought about by COVID-19 pandemic. The Directorate has also waived off the processing fees for such extensions, except for cases pertaining to extension of dry-docking survey/periodical/annual/renewal surveys.

2. Whereas, the Indian National Ship Owner Association and Indian Coastal Ship Owner Association have appealed to the Directorate to allow extension of dry-docking surveys/periodical/annual/renewal surveys for a period beyond what is permitted by various IMO Conventions and also requested to waive off applicable processing fees for all such extensions due to continuing lockdown period and non-availability of servicing/repairing facilities arising out of COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Taking a pragmatic view of the situation, the Directorate has already decided to consider extensions of surveys/audits/inspections, beyond the periods permitted by IMO Conventions and also now decided to waive off the processing fees for all such extensions for a limited period. The waiver of processing fees will be applicable for new applications made to the DGS after issuance of this Order and for vessels whose surveys are falling due on or before 31st May 2020.

4. The extension of surveys beyond the IMO Convention provisions will be under the following conditions:
4.1. If the extension is granted beyond the IMO Convention provisions, the Company, prior entering any foreign load/discharge port, will take permission from relevant Maritime Authorities for acceptance of Statutory certificates.
4.2. As soon as the RO Surveyor is ready to board the vessel, company will offer the vessel for a general examination and Under Water CCTV Examination (only in cases where Docking Survey is extended) / Double Bottom Tank examination and Cargo hold examination (in the case of single hull Bulk Carriers). Continuation of extension will be subject to satisfactory results of these examinations by RO Surveyor.

5. After restoration of normalcy, it is the responsibility of the Company to bring back the ship to normal survey/audit cycle. However, Recognized Organization shall ensure that these vessels are brought back to
normal survey / audit / inspection cycle as soon as possible by keeping them posted regularly of their obligations.

6. ROs recommending for extension shall keep following records and update them weekly and submit the same to Directorate on 3'd May 2020 and weekly thereafter:
6.1. List of vessels and details of exemptions / extensions granted to Indian vessels considering the situation developed due to COVID 19.
6.2. Details of such vessels offered for survey/audit/inspection after the lock down period and the status/records of such surveys /audits/inspections.

| 5. Iran | Matters related to surveys, inspections, certification and/or renewal of Statutory certificates, including the CLC, BCLC, Wreck removal, ISSC, DOC of safety management companies that are issued by the Ports and Maritime Organization as duly authorized maritime administration of the Iran, Statutory certificates issued by the RO on behalf of this administration, and the seafarers documents and certificates, which needs to be available on board vessels in accordance with IMO circulars which will expire by January, February or April 2020, are hereby extended until 31 May 2020. |

| 6. Maldives | 1. Maldives Maritime Administration has issued Circular No. INT-2020/001 providing instructions with regards to extension of expiry dates of Seafarers Certificates and trading certificates issued to Maldivian flagged vessels as outlined below due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.  

   a. Extension of the validity of Seafarers Certification:  
   i. Certificate of Competency (CoCs) expiring on or after 01\textsuperscript{st} March 2020 will be extended for six (6) months from the date of expiry of the certificate on seafarer’s application.  
   ii. Mandatory short courses required for the revalidation of CoC will also be extended for six (6) months on seafarer’s application.  
   iii. Medical Fitness certificates expiring on or after 01\textsuperscript{st} March 2020 are extended until 30\textsuperscript{th} June 2020. |
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<td><strong>b. Extension of the validity of Trading Certificates:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>iv.</strong> Trading certificates issued to Maldivian flagged vessels expiring on or after 01\textsuperscript{st} March 2020 are extended until 30\textsuperscript{th} June 2020.</td>
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<td><strong>c. Extension of Port Facility Permits:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>v.</strong> Port Facility Permits expiring on or after 01\textsuperscript{st} March 2020 are extended until 30\textsuperscript{th} June 2020.</td>
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<td>2. Ship owners/ operators and masters of Maldivian flagged ships are advised to be guided by above.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td><strong>Myanmar</strong></td>
<td>The Department of Marine Administration shall extend the validity of their STCW certificates including medical certificate for the duration of up to six months from the date of expiry.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td><strong>Oman</strong></td>
<td>The extension validity of the following seafarer’s documents issued by, or under the authority of, this Directorate General that terminated, or will be terminated in coming months, is hereby extended until the June 30\textsuperscript{th} 2020. Certificate of Competency, Certificate of Proficiency, Seafarers Medical fitness certificate, Recognition Endorsement, Recognition document (for service in Domestic Voyage) and Seafarers Identification Document.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td><strong>Sri Lanka</strong></td>
<td>(1) Statutory certificates which will be expired before 30\textsuperscript{th} April 2020 will be granted a general extension till 31\textsuperscript{st} May 2020. Owners or operators of Sri Lankan ships are not required to apply for the extension. (2) Certificates of Competency (CoC), Certificates of Proficiency (CoP), Certificates of Recognition (CoR) and Sri Lankan Medical certificates which will be expired before 30\textsuperscript{th} April 2020 will be granted a general extension till June 2020. Seafarers are not required to apply for the extension. (3) Seafarers’ service period on board ships may be extended provided that such extension agreed by the seafarer voluntary in writing and such extension should also be set out properly in the contract of employment. All extensions shall be communicated to this administration within two weeks of signing.</td>
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Revised
MSN 02/2020 dated 22 March 2020 has outlined the extraordinary measures adopted by the Merchant Shipping Secretariat (MSS) due to COVID-19 outbreak. In view of the recent developments and uncertainty that have been caused by the pandemic and having assessed the difficulties faced by the seafarers and ship-owners, the Merchant Shipping Secretariat has taken pragmatic approach which includes following further measures for the force majeure arising due to the COVID-19. MSN 02/2020 has been revised with effect from 01 May 2020.

1. **Seafarers’ Certification**
   
   Following measures are applicable to seafarers who are holders of certificates issued by Sri Lanka and who have joined ships prior 01 March 2020.

   **a. Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency** which have expired or will be expiring after 01/05/2020 will remain valid until 01/10/2020.

   **b. Seaman’s Book (CDC)** issued by Sri Lanka which have expired or will be expiring after 01/05/2020 will remain valid until 01/10/2020.

   **c. Certificates of Recognition** (Endorsements attesting the recognition of national certificates of competency) which have expired or will be expiring after 01/05/2020 will remain valid for a maximum period up to 01/10/2020, or an earlier date as provided by a similar extension issued by the Competent Authorities of the Country which issued the certificate of competency.

   **d. Medical certificates** issued by the approved medical practitioners of Sri Lanka which have expired or will be expiring after 01/05/2020 will be granted a general extension of 3 months from the date of expiry.
### e. Contract of Employment of Seafarers

May be extended by another 3 months provided that such extension agreed by the seafarer voluntarily in writing and such extension should also be set out properly in the contract of employment. All extensions shall be communicated to this administration within two weeks of signing.

Seafarers are not required to apply for any extensions mentioned above.

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<th>10.</th>
<th>South Africa</th>
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<td>Following the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and taking into account that no staff will be available during the period to conduct surveys, SAMSA will consider extending the validity of valid statutory certificates for a period up to 60 days from the date of expiry of the certificates.</td>
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<tr>
<th>11.</th>
<th>Sudan</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Sudan has introduced a number of practical measures to insure that the flow of commercial by sea is not to be unnecessary disturbed of this unpresented time when ships and crew are a critical part of the solution to overcome the COVID-19.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this respect I would like to inform you that the Sudan maritime administration has adopted the temporary measures presented to ensure effective measure are taken to deal with global crisis.
Indian MoU Press Release Highlight

The Guidance is prepared based on the general principle that requests/issues from the operators/owners/managers would be considered on a case–to–case basis by the relevant port State Authority.

In accordance with the guidance, the port State Authority should request the operator/owner/manager concerned to confirm that the flag State and/or the RO, relevant seafarer’s organization (as appropriate) have been involved in the process. For consideration of the request by the port State Authority, operators/owners/ship managers concerned should provide a plan or process containing equivalent solutions to address the COVID-19 situation and letters of dispensation or exemption issued by the flag State or RO, under which the period of grace for delaying surveys, inspections or audits should be reflected, however, such period at this moment, shall not be exceeding more than three months from the date of expiry of the applicable certificates in accordance with the relevant regulations of the conventions.

Revised Guidelines:

In view of the foregoing and as the COVID-19 has taken an unprecedented pandemic situation, anticipating its long term effect, understanding from the present scenario that this critical situation is not going to improve substantially, in near future, also realizing that there is a vital need for maritime administrations to grant a reasonable period of exemption / extension / relaxation beyond three months for the STCW, MLC/ILO related certificates and other mandatory/statutory certificates of the vessels relevant to IMO conventions, the member Authorities of the Indian Ocean MOU have decided to revise the earlier guidelines issued vide Press Release dated 20th March 2020 with respect to relaxation period mentioned in various scenarios is now to be read as follows:
“This pragmatic relaxation / exemptions / dispensations granted by the flag state administration / R.O for an appropriate grace period beyond the relaxation periods permitted under various conventions for surveys, inspections and audits of ships and for certificates / documents of seafarers required as per MLC and STCW conventions specific to situations arising due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic should be accepted by the port State authorities. Any vessel beyond this grace period should be treated in the normal manner”.

The above revision to the annex guidance issued vide press release dated 20th March 2020 will be effective from 16 April 2020.

The guidance may be further reviewed upon any future initiatives taken by the IMO/ILO/member Authorities or based on the developments of the situation

**Tokyo MoU Press Release Highlight**

The guidance is prepared based on the general principle that requests/issues would be considered on a case-by-case basis by the relevant port State Authority. In accordance with the guidance, the port State Authority should request the operator concerned to confirm that flag State and/or RO, relevant seafarers organizations (if appropriate) have been involved in the process. For consideration of the request by the port State Authority, operators/companies concerned should provide a plan or process containing equivalent solutions to address the COVID-19 situation and letters of dispensation or exemption by the flag State or RO, under which the period of grace for delaying surveys, inspections or audits should be no more than three months, in accordance with the relevant regulations of conventions.

**Revised Guidelines:**

For dealing with the impact of the outbreak of COVID-19 in a pragmatic and harmonized approach in the region, Tokyo MOU adopted the relevant guidance on 12 March 2020 for port State Authorities to apply pragmatic relaxation on requests for extending periods of service onboard of seafarers, delaying periods for surveys, inspections and audits on a case-by-case basis. In accordance with the guidance, port State Authorities would accept the period of grace for delaying surveys, inspections or audits extended by flag State Administration and/or RO up to three months from the middle of January 2020 (starting of the outbreak of COVID-19). Taking into account that serious interruptions to the shipping industry become long-lasting as the consequence of the COVID-19 situation changed from epidemic into the world pandemic, Tokyo MOU reviewed and revised the relevant guidance in order to cope with the uncertain circumstances. Noting that no end sign of the situation can be expected at the moment, the guidance is revised to allow port State Authorities to apply the pragmatic relaxation for an appropriate grace period for delaying periods for surveys, inspections and audits specific to COVID-19 given to ship by the flag State Administration and/or RO. The revised guidance will be effective from 15 April 2020. The guidance may be further reviewed upon any future initiatives IMO/ILO or developments of the situation.

**Paris MoU Press Release Highlight**

The Paris MoU has developed temporary guidance for its Member Authorities during the COVID-19 crisis. The guidance recognises that there is a need to apply flexibility under these special circumstances. Forced by the current situation, Member Authorities have implemented national measures which are affecting the region’s port State control regime.

The temporary guidance sets out parameters for the adoption of a pragmatic approach to be taken in the region. The key to this approach is the recognition that measures are being taken by flag States recognising the
challenges the maritime industry is facing. Guidance for the port State control Authorities has been drafted regarding:

- impact of delays for surveys, inspections and audits
- extensions of validity of the ship’s certificates
- extended periods of service on board
- delaying periods for personnel certification (STCW’95 and MLC,2006)

As a general principle, a pragmatic approach regarding the mentioned issues is suggested to be taken on a case-by-case basis **for periods up to maximum three months**. In such cases it is expected that there is active involvement of the flag State, and, if appropriate, the Recognised Organisation. This would include evidence that the ship has a plan that covers how the ship will be brought back in compliance with the requirements.

Whether an inspection takes place remains the decision of the port State. A vessel can be considered self-isolating only if there are no ship-shore interfaces.