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No. C/70/14/MAA/1094/03/20

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Date 25 March 2020

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Secretary General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

Subject: Temporary Extension of Certificates and Seafarer books

Your Excellency!

The Ethiopian Maritime Affairs Authority (EMAA) presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and kindly request the IMO to note and circulate this letter to all member states.

This office received requests for the extension of certificates from seafarers who are unable to sign off due to the challenges related to the current outbreak of COVID-19. On the other hand, seafarers may face challenges of completing courses required for the renewal of Certificates as per STCW 1978, as amended.

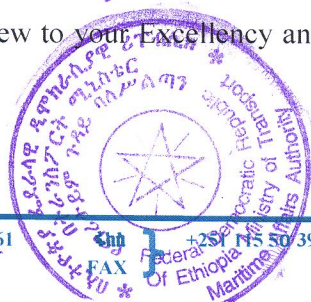
Considering, the inconvenience that may be caused to seafarers and the advice of IMO per circular letter No. 4204/add.5 flag states to take a pragmatic and practical approach on the matter, the Ethiopian Maritime Affairs Authority (EMAA) has decided to grant a general extension on the validity of the Certificates and Seafarer books as of the 25th of March 2020.

As a result, the validity of Ethiopian Certificates of Competency, Certificates of Proficiency, Medical Certificates and Seafarer Books, which will expire before 1st of September 2020, are granted a general extension of validity of up to 6 months from the date of expiry without the individual seafarer submitting an application. Certificate of Endorsement will also automatically be extended as long as COC/COP is extended by the issuing flag state. For urgent matters and any inquiry, EMMA may be contacted on the below telephone and email addresses.

EMAA avails itself of this opportunity to renew to your Excellency and the IMO the assurance of its highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Mekonnen Abera
Director General



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