



NAURU

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

GUIDANCE ON STATUTORY SURVEYS, AUDITS AND FLAG STATE INSPECTIONS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 (NMA_C39.2020.Rev.0)

PURPOSE:

This shipping circular serve to address the challenges faced by many ship owners, managers and operators when it comes to arranging vessel attendance by RO, RSO and Flag State Inspectors.

Other common challenges include arranging the delivery and/or repair of ship spares and equipment due to restrictions and precautionary measures imposed by countries and port authorities around the world to curb the increasing spread of COVID-19.

REFERENCE:

- a) Nauru Shipping Circular NMA C36 – Coronavirus (COVID-19)

APPLICATION:

This Shipping Circular applies to all Nauru flagged vessels.

INTRODUCTION:

The Nauru Maritime Administration (NMA) fully supports the IMO guidances relating to COVID-19 found in Circular Letter No.4204 and all its addendums and has recognised this as a force majeure situation that will necessitate flexibility in order to keep global shipping intact.

In light of the above, NMA has worked closely with ship owners and ROs and has accepted the employment of remote survey techniques where physical attendance is not possible to ensure that statutory certificates of Nauru flagged vessels continue to remain valid, and where remote survey techniques cannot be employed, NMA will invoke the force majeure measures in the next section.

CONTENTS:

- 1) Statutory Surveys and Certificates:

Postponement of survey, servicing of equipment, and/or certificate extension beyond the maximum three (3) months in the event where scheduled surveys (drydock surveys, statutory surveys including IOPP renewal survey) are unable to be performed, either by physical attendance or remote means.

- 2) Document of Compliance (ISM Code):

Extending the DOC where the company cannot complete the required initial or annual verifications.



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3) Safety Management Certificate (SMC - ISM Code) / International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC - ISPS Code):

- a) Extending the Interim SMC/ISSC where the initial ISM/ISPS shipboard audit cannot be arranged.
- b) Extending the intermediate ISM/ISPS audit and authorize RO to issue Short Term SMC/ISSC with the corresponding validity.
- c) Extending the SMC/ISSC where the renewal ISM/ISPS shipboard audit cannot be arranged.

4) Maritime Labour Certificate (MLC 2006):

Although the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 does not have provisions for extension of initial, intermediate or renewal inspections, NMA will apply similar measures taken in Section (3) provided there is adequate justification.

5) Flag State Inspections:

All Flag State Inspections shall be deferred until further notice.

6) Instructions for Ship Owners and ROs:

The above force majeure measures may be applied by Ship Owners and ROs to the NMA at tech@naurumaritime.com, and all applications shall be supported with documentation in the form of PDF or emails such as:

- a) Notice by a port authority stating that the vessel is quarantined and/or that no one is authorized to attend the vessel; or
- b) Confirmation from a RO that their auditor and/or surveyor is unable to attend the vessel in the port where the schedule inspection, audit or survey was to take place; or
- c) Confirmation from a shipyard stating that it is unable to accommodate the vessel on a previously agreed schedule.

ROs shall record and track the status of all extensions and provide vessels with the necessary certification evidence supporting the extensions.

For further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Administration at: flag@naurumaritime.com.