



Paris, May 19, 2021

FRENCH MARITIME AUTHORITIES MEMO
(May 19, 2021 update)
(Courtesy translation)

Objet : Emergency response Covid-19

Extending the validity of STCW and STCW-F certificates, documentary evidences for seafarers, and, marine medical certificates for seafarers, during the state of health emergency aimed at curbing the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Références :

- Code des transports L.5521-1 et L.5521-2. ;
- Loi n° 2020-290 du 23 mars 2020 d'urgence pour faire face à l'épidémie de covid-19 ;
- Loi n° 2020-546 du 11 mai 2020 prorogeant l'état d'urgence sanitaire et complétant ses dispositions ;
- Loi n° 2020-1379 du 14 novembre 2020 autorisant la prorogation de l'état d'urgence sanitaire et portant diverses mesures de gestion de la crise sanitaire ;
- Loi n° 2021-160 du 15 février 2021 prorogeant l'état d'urgence sanitaire ;
- Ordonnance n° 2020-306 du 25 mars 2020 relative à la prorogation des délais échus pendant la période d'urgence sanitaire et à l'adaptation des procédures pendant cette même période ;
- Décret n°2015-723 du 24 juin 2015 relatif à la délivrance des titres de formation professionnelle maritime et aux conditions d'exercice de fonctions à bord des navires armés au commerce, à la plaisance, à la pêche et aux cultures marines ;
- Décret n°2015-1575 du 3 décembre 2015 relatif à la santé et à l'aptitude médicale à la navigation ;
- Décret n°2020-480 du 27 avril 2020 portant mesures d'urgence en matière d'encadrement des activités et professions maritimes
- Décret n° 2021-370 du 31 mars 2021 relatif aux certificats d'aptitude médicale ainsi qu'aux titres et attestations de formation professionnelle des professions maritimes et portant modification du décret n° 2020-480 du 27 avril 2020 portant mesures d'urgence en matière d'encadrement des activités et professions maritimes et le décret n° 2015-723 du 24 juin 2015 relatif à la délivrance des titres de formation professionnelle maritime et aux conditions d'exercice de fonctions à bord des navires armés au commerce, à la plaisance, à la pêche et aux cultures marines
- Décret n° 2020-1257 du 14 octobre 2020 déclarant l'état d'urgence sanitaire
- Décret n° 2020-1310 du 29 octobre 2020 prescrivant les mesures générales nécessaires pour faire face à l'épidémie de covid-19 dans le cadre de l'état d'urgence sanitaire ;
- Décret du 2 avril 2021 modifiant les décrets n° 2020-1262 du 16 octobre 2020 et n° 2020-1310 du 29 octobre 2020 prescrivant les mesures générales nécessaires pour faire face à l'épidémie de covid-19 dans le cadre de l'état d'urgence sanitaire
- Décret n° 2021-541 du 1er mai 2021 modifiant le décret n° 2020-1310 du 29 octobre 2020 prescrivant les mesures générales nécessaires pour faire face à l'épidémie de covid-19 dans le cadre de l'état d'urgence sanitaire
- Lettre circulaire n°4204/Add1 de l'Organisation maritime internationale
- Lettre circulaire n°4204/Add5/Rev.1 de l'Organisation maritime internationale
- Note d'information – Questions relatives au travail maritime et au coronavirus (COVID-19) de l'Organisation internationale du travail (version 2.0)



1. Context

France was again declared in a state of health emergency from October 17, 2020 has set the end of this state of health emergency on June 1, 2021 inclusive. Specific measures still apply or are reintroduced in the functioning of State services and companies, which may continue to affect the issuing or the revalidation of STCW and STCW-F certificates, training documentary evidences and marine medical certificates for seafarers, which would expire during the period.

Thus, the following provisions are necessary for transport and maritime services to keep going. They consist for the services of the French Maritime Authorities in extending the validity of the various seafarers' certificates or documents essential for the operation and which cannot be issued or revalidated because of the circumstances related to COVID 19.

These measures are taken in consistency with the international provisions recommended and decided by the IMO and the ILO on the matter.

2. Provisions for STCW and STCW-F certificates, documentary evidences for seafarers issued by French maritime authorities

For decisions expiring from March 12, 2020 and until January 10, 2021:

In compliance with government provisions to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and in order to allow the continuity of the activity of seafarers and ships, the period of validity of the following decisions, expiring from 12 March, 2020 until January 10, 2021, will be extended until a date set by the French maritime authority and no later than July 1, 2021.

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration, as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The extension date, set by the French maritime authority, will be determined according to priorities taking into account the circumstances, maritime safety requirements, service requirements and preliminary instruction, visit or required control formalities. The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of ships and training centers before this deadline.

For decisions expiring from January 11, 2021:

In compliance with the same governmental provisions and in order to allow a similar continuity of the activity of seafarers and ships, the period of validity of the following decisions, expiring between January 11, 2021 and the entry into force of the décret n° 2021-370 of March 31, 2021 or expiring after that date, will be extended until a date set by the French maritime authority following the end of this period and no later than September 1, 2021.

- STCW and STCW-F certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency ;
- Documentary evidences of a training approved ;



Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration, as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The extension date, set by the French maritime authority, will be determined according to priorities taking into account the circumstances, maritime safety requirements, service requirements and preliminary instruction, visit or required control formalities. The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of ships and training centers before this deadline.

3. Provisions for medical certificates issued to seafarers by French maritime authorities

For decisions expiring from March 12, 2020 and until January 10, 2021:

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 from March 12, 2020 until January 10, 2021 will be extended from the end of their validity until a date set by the French maritime authority and no later than July 1, 2021.

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, seafarers' doctors, before this deadline.

For decisions expiring from January 11, 2021:

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 from January 11, 2021 and the entry into force of décret n° 2021-370 of March 31, 2021 or expiring after that date, will be extended until a date set by the French maritime authority following the end of this period and no later than September 1, 2021.

Seafarers will not have to make a request to the administration as this extension is ipso jure, not entailing the issue of a new document.

The French maritime authority may reduce this extension depending on the resumption of activity of the administration, seafarers' doctors, before this deadline.



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