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Ref. T1/10

MSC-MEPC.5/Circ.1
26 September 2005

SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION – RELATED MATTERS*

Recommended conditions for extending the period of validity of a certificate

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eightieth session (11 to 20 May 2005) and the Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its fifty-third session (18 to 22 July 2005) approved the recommended conditions for extending the period of validity of a certificate to clarify that extension of the period of validity of certificates should only be granted in very specific circumstances, as set out in the annex.

2 The recommended conditions for extending the period of validity of a certificate should be considered for inclusion in Section 5 of the Revised survey guidelines under the Revised harmonized system of survey and certification (HSSC) (resolution A.948(23)), as subsection 5.9, when a comprehensive review of the Revised Survey Guidelines takes place.

3 Member Governments are invited to bring this circular and annex to the attention of all parties concerned.

* In order to facilitate the identification and retrieval of information circulated by means of joint MSC-MEPC circulars, from now on such information will be disseminated through the following circular series:

- 1 Organization and methods of work, as MSC-MEPC.1/Circ...
- 2 General matters, as MSC-MEPC.2/Circ...
- 3 Casualty-related matters, as MSC-MEPC.3/Circ...
- 4 Port State control-related matters, as MSC-MEPC.4/Circ...
- 5 Survey and certification-related matters, as MSC-MEPC.5/Circ...
- 6 National contact points for safety and pollution prevention and response, as MSC-MEPC.6/Circ...

ANNEX

**RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS FOR EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF VALIDITY
OF A CERTIFICATE**

1 In SOLAS and other mandatory IMO instruments the following provision applies: “If a ship at the time when a certificate expires is not in a port in which it is to be surveyed, the Administration may extend the period of validity of a certificate but this extension shall be granted only for the purpose of allowing the ship to complete its voyage to the port in which it is to be surveyed, and then only in cases *where it appears proper and reasonable to do so*. No certificate shall be extended for a period longer than three months, and a ship to which an extension is granted shall not, on its arrival in the port in which is to be surveyed, be entitled by virtue of such extension to leave that port without having a new certificate.”

2 If a ship is in a port where the required survey cannot be completed, and where the Convention allows the Administration to extend the certificate when it is proper and reasonable to do so, the Administration should be guided by the following:

- .1 an additional survey, equivalent to at least the same scope of an annual survey required by the relevant certificate(s) should be carried out;
- .2 the renewal survey should be progressed to the maximum extent possible;
- .3 in cases where a dry docking is required, but cannot be carried out, an underwater inspection of the ship’s bottom should be carried out;
- .4 in cases where an underwater inspection is not possible (e.g. poor water visibility, draft restrictions, excessive current, refusal by the port Authority), an internal inspection of the ship’s bottom structure, to the maximum extent practicable, should be carried out;
- .5 the ship should be allowed to sail directly to a named final agreed cargo discharge port and then directly to a named agreed port to complete the survey and/or dry docking;
- .6 the extension period should be for the minimum amount of time needed to complete the survey and/or dry docking under the relevant certificate(s);
- .7 the condition of the ship found by the surveys indicated above should be considered in determining the duration, distance and operational restrictions, if any, of the voyage needed to complete the survey and/or dry docking; and
- .8 the extension period of the relevant statutory certificate(s) should not exceed the period of validity of the certificate which may be issued to document compliance with the structural, mechanical and electrical requirements of the recognized classification society.