



Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Federal Republic of Germany



Measures taken by the German Flag due to the COVID-19-Pandemic

Date: 2020-03-25

1. Ship's statutory certificates

For ships flying the German flag, the following applies:

- Regarding the endorsements of certificates: due to COVID-19 countermeasures, the mandatory shore-based service for all statutory surveys are herewith suspended until 30 June 2020, however no longer than until three months after the end of the annual survey window.
- Regarding the endorsements of certificates: if the mandatory periodical surveys cannot be carried out due to COVID-19 countermeasures, the mandatory survey requirements are suspended until 30 June 2020, however no longer than until three months after the end of the annual survey window.
- Regarding expiring certificates: if the mandatory renewal surveys cannot be carried out due to COVID-19 countermeasures, the mandatory survey requirements are suspended. The German flag state administration currently issues electronic short-term certificates with a validity of three months for ships affected by this exceptional situation.

All technical and operational requirements have to be complied with during this period.

2. Seafarers' certificates

Due to COVID-19 countermeasures, the following regulations with regard to seafarers' certificates will apply with immediate effect:

- The validity of all seafarers' certificates (certificates of competency, certificates of proficiency and documentary evidence) issued by the German Maritime Administration and approved training providers that will expire before 1 September 2020 is extended by 6 month. No application by the individual seafarer is needed for this purpose. The validity of all German medical certificates with the regular validity of two years that expired after 1 January 2020 will be extended until 30 June 2020. No application by the individual seafarer is needed for this purpose.
- The German Maritime Administration continues to accept applications for the issuance of certificates, will process them as far as possible under the current circumstances and recommends seafarers to apply as usual.
- The validity of endorsements of recognition issued by the German Maritime Administration that will expire before 1 September 2020 is extended by up to 6 month in accordance with the specific COVID-19 related measures taken by the respective issuing Administration of the CoC. No application by the individual seafarer is needed for this purpose.

- For the time being, the following rules will apply: Seafarers whose certificates of competency and proficiency (documents) will expire in the near future and who are registered for a refresher course that will not take place due to the spread of COVID-19 can submit the application form as usual. Seafarers will receive their documents regularly renewed for 5 years, provided that all other requirements are met and proof of registration for the refresher course, including the cancellation, is attached to the application form. The administrative notice issued together with the documents will include an obligation to submit documentary evidence of refresher training within six months from the date of the issuance of the documents. For safety reasons, this regulation does not apply to the participation in courses required for the first qualification that are cancelled due to COVID-19.

3. Port State Control

Germany has suspended all regular PSC inspections of foreign-flagged vessels as a precaution in relation to the spread of COVID-19. The measures took effect on 16 March 2020. Inspections will be carried out by an "incident team" and only in case of an emergency (e.g. collisions or grounding).

Due to COVID-19 countermeasures, Germany currently accepts, until 30 June 2020, all ship certificates and seafarers' certificates that expired after 1 January 2020.

4. Security inspections

All control and compliance measures in accordance with the ISPS Code Part A 4.4 and 19 on board German-flagged vessels worldwide and in accordance with SOLAS XI-2, Regulation 9.1 on board foreign-flagged vessels in German ports are suspended until 30 June 2020.

5. Ship's statutory certificates issued under the provision of the German Maritime Labour Act

In the case of an expiring Maritime Labour or Fishing Labour Certificate, the mandatory inspection requirements are suspended if the renewal inspection cannot be carried out due to COVID-19 countermeasures. The German flag state administration currently issues electronic short-term certificates with a validity of three months for ships affected by this exceptional situation.

6. MARPOL and BALLAST WATER inspections, inspections in accordance with the Sulphur Directive

The frequency of ship inspections in accordance with MARPOL, the BALLAST WATER convention and/or the Sulphur Directive (EU) 2016/802 as carried out by the German police has been reduced due to staff shortages and police forces being deployed to deal with priority tasks related to the containment of the virus. As of 19 March 2020, the intention is to carry out inspections following serious THETIS-EU alerts, but the development of the actual feasibility of doing so is difficult to predict.

For further regularly updated information visit <https://www.deutsche-flagge.de/en/coronavirus>