

# Seafarer certificates expiring during COVID-19 shutdown – what you need to know

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**This information last updated 30 March 2020.**

With the unprecedented situation of New Zealand going into lockdown in response to COVID 19 Maritime NZ has taken steps to allow seafarers to work with expired certificates for a specific period of time.

If you hold one of the following certificates and it expires between 11 March 2020 and 30 June 2020, read on to find out more.

- Seafarer certificate of competency
- Seafarer medical certificate
- Ancillary certificates

## Seafarer certificates of competency

If your seafarer certificate expires between 11 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 you are able to continue to use it for an additional three months from the date it expires.

The conditions of your expired certificate will continue to apply. This means you can continue to exercise privileges that were previously provided by the expired certificate. This includes any limitations, conditions or suspensions of the expired certificate. If your seafarer certificate is currently suspended you are unable to use it.

There are two additional conditions that apply to your certificate during this time.

- You must cease exercising privileges after the date of expiration if required to do so in writing by the Director.
- For certificates of recognition, your primary certificate must remain valid. This includes where a primary certificate has been extended by the issuing flag state.

The general exemption is from the requirements of Maritime Rules 31.25(1) and 32.10(1).

## Seafarer medical certificates

If your medical certificate was either category A, A(T) or B and expires between 11 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 you are able to continue to use it for an additional three months from the date it expires.

The conditions of your expired certificate will continue to apply. This means:

- You must continue to meet any conditions of the expired medical certificate.
- If you are incapacitated by illness or injury for 30 or more days, an approved medical practitioner must re-examine you and be satisfied that you continue to meet the standard for the category of the expired certificate.

There are two additional conditions that apply to your medical certificate during this time:

- You must be able to produce your expired certificate of medical fitness when requested to do

so by the Director or the master of the ship on which you are employed or engaged.

- You must obtain a new medical certificate if required to do so by the Director.

The general exemption is from the requirements in Maritime Rules 34.22(1) and 34.22(4).

## Ancillary certificates

If your ancillary certificate of proficiency expires between 11 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 you are able to continue to use it for three months from the date of expiry.

These are the ancillary certificates that can expire.

### STCW

- basic fire-prevention and fire-fighting
- basic personal survival
- survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats
- advanced fire-fighting
- fast rescue boats
- crowd management training
- safety training (passengers in passenger spaces)
- crisis management and human behaviour, and
- passenger safety, cargo safety and hull integrity training

### National

- first aid

### STCW-F

- No STCW-F ancillary certificates expire

The general exemption is from the requirements in Maritime Rules 31.25(2) and 32.16(1).

## What happens next?

Maritime NZ is continuing to monitor the situation with COVID-19 and will update this page with any changes and additional information as and when it becomes available.

## Contact us

If you have any questions please email [seafarers@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:seafarers@maritimenz.govt.nz).