



# NIUE SHIP REGISTRY

Website: [www.niueship.com](http://www.niueship.com)

## EXTENSION OF SERVICE PERIOD IN SEAFARERS' EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT AND CERTIFICATES OF ENDORSEMENT IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (Circular NMC3.2020 (rev3))

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this circular is to address the heightened immigration control measures and travel restrictions put in place by an increasing number of countries which have resulted in ship owners experiencing difficulties arranging change of crew when their Seafarers' Employment Agreements (SEA) expire, and similarly resulting in seafarers being unable to extend their Niue Certificates of Endorsement (COE) as they are unable to revalidate their national STCW COCs/COPs and even medical certificates.

### RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Niue Marine Circular NMC2.2020 – Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19)
2. Maritime Labour Convention 2006, as amended
3. Niue Registry Circular NRC6.2012.01 – Certificates of Endorsement (COE)

### APPLICATION:

This circular applies to all seafarers serving on board Niue flagged vessels.

### CONTENTS:

1. Extension of SEA
  - 1.1. International efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19 has led to an increasing number of countries and their port authorities placing immigration restrictions which may result in difficulties for ship owners to arrange change of crew when the SEAs of the crew expire.
  - 1.2. To address the above circumstances, the Niue Ship Registry wishes to advise all parties concerned that a seafarer's service period may be extended on condition that any such extension is agreed by the seafarer voluntarily in writing and is properly set out in the SEA.
2. Extension of Niue COE
  - 2.1. Niue COEs that expire due to the seafarers being unable to revalidate their COCs, COPs and/or medical certificates due to travel restrictions caused by COVID-19 shall be able to apply to [crewing@niueship.com](mailto:crewing@niueship.com) to have the COEs extended on condition that the National Authority issuing the COC/COP has issued an official notice or letter of extension.
  - 2.2. In the event that an official notice or letter of extension by the National Authority cannot be produced, then the Niue Ship Registry may, on a case-to-case basis, issue a short term dispensation letter to allow the seafarer to continue to sail in his/her present capacity until the vessel is able to call at the first port where the seafarer can be replaced or repatriated. Please contact [technical@niueship.com](mailto:technical@niueship.com) to apply for a dispensation if required.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Registry at [operations@niueship.com](mailto:operations@niueship.com) or call: +65 6226-2001 for clarification.