



# Kiribati Ship Registry

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## MARINE CIRCULAR 53/2020

10 April 2020

**TO** Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers,  
Recognized Organizations, Port Authorities, Flag State Inspectors

**SUBJECT** Extension of Statutory Certificates, Surveys, Audits & Inspections due to COVID-19

### DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- "FSI" – Flag State Inspection
- "ISM Code" – International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention
- "ISPS Code" – International Ship and Port Facility Security Code implemented through chapter XI-2
- "ISSC" – International Ship Security Certificate
- "MLC" – Maritime Labour Certificate
- "MLC 2006" – Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
- "PSC" – Port State Control
- "RO" – Recognized Organization as defined by IMO Resolution A.789(19)
- "SMC" – Safety Management Certificate

The term "Administration" shall mean Kiribati Ship Registry.

### PURPOSE

This circular addresses the difficulties faced by the ship owner/manager in the arrangement of statutory surveys, audits and inspections as a result of travel restrictions imposed by port authorities around the world to curb the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

This circular is valid up till 31 December 2020, unless otherwise extended, revised or revoked.

### APPLICATION

This circular applies to all Kiribati flagged vessels.

## **CONTENTS:**

The Administration recognises this as exceptional times which necessitates flexibility and all industry stakeholders to work together to maintain the validity of statutory certificates by means of physical and remote survey techniques where possible.

In supporting the industry, the Administration will consider taking the below measures under force majeure on a case-to-case basis.

### **1. Statutory Surveys and Certificates:**

Postponement of survey, servicing of equipment, and/or certificate extension beyond the maximum three (3) months in the event where scheduled surveys (drydock surveys, statutory surveys including IOPP renewal survey) are unable to be performed, either by physical attendance or remote means, due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

### **2. DOC (ISM Code):**

2.1. Extending the DOC where the company cannot complete the required initial or annual verifications.

### **3. SMC (ISM Code):**

3.1. Extending the Interim SMC where the initial ISM shipboard audit cannot be carried out.

3.2. Extending the intermediate ISM audit and authorize RO to issue Short Term SMC with the corresponding validity.

3.3. Extending the SMC where the renewal ISM shipboard audit cannot be carried out.

### **4. ISSC (ISPS Code):**

4.1. Extending the Interim ISSC where the initial ISPS shipboard verification cannot be carried out.

4.2. Extending the intermediate ISPS verification and authorize RO to issue Short Term ISSC with the corresponding validity.

4.3. Extending the ISSC where the renewal ISPS shipboard verification cannot be carried out.

### **5. MLC (MLC 2006):**

5.1. Extending the Interim MLC where the initial MLC 2006 shipboard verification cannot be carried out.

5.2. Extending the intermediate MLC 2006 verification and authorize RO to issue Short Term MLC with the corresponding validity.

5.3. Extending the MLC where the renewal MLC 2006 shipboard verification cannot be carried out.

### **6. Annual FSI:**

6.1. Extending the annual FSI or consider remote inspection techniques where possible.

Applications for the force majeure measures shall be made to [technical@kiribaship.com](mailto:technical@kiribaship.com) either through the ship operator or RO together with supporting documentation, and examples of supporting documentation may include the following:

- a) Port Authority statement that the vessel is quarantined and/or that no one is authorized to attend the vessel; or
- b) Statement or letter from the Inspector, Auditor and/or Surveyor stating that they are unable to attend the vessel in the port where the inspection, audit or survey was to take place due to travel or port restrictions; or
- c) Statement or letter from the shipyard stating that they are unable to accommodate the vessel on the date previously agreed.

Note: the documentation above are acceptable in the form of PDF or emails.

**REFERENCES:**

- 1) Kiribati Marine Circular 49/2020 – Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar  
Kiribati Ship Registry