

海事處
商船海員管理處
香港統一碼頭道三十八號
海港政府大樓 3 樓



MARINE DEPARTMENT
MERCANTILE MARINE OFFICE
3/F., HARBOUR BUILDING
38 PIER ROAD, HONG KONG

網站 WEB SITE: <https://www.mardep.gov.hk>
本處檔號 OUR REF.: SEMMO-A01-050-02A-001-P001
電話號碼 TEL. NO: (852) 2852 3075
傳真號碼 FAX NO.: (852) 2545 4669
電郵 EMAIL: mmo_mdd@mardep.gov.hk

13 June 2022

To: Shipowners, Ship Managers and Masters of Hong Kong registered ships

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Seafarers with extended service period on board

Recognizing the crew changes or repatriation of seafarers' arrangement cannot be effected during the COVID-19 pandemic, Marine Department (MD) has issued a circular letter on 31 July 2020¹ (Circular) to shipowners, ship managers and masters of Hong Kong registered ships aiming to specify the requirements on extension of the Seafarers' Employment Agreement (SEA).

2. Recently, it has been found that some of the requirements stipulated in MD's above Circular were not followed, and several Hong Kong registered ships were detained by port State control (PSC) regime due to seafarers found exceeding their maximum period for service on board, and no repatriation plan or flag approval was available.

3. MD would like to draw the attention of all parties concerned on the importance of complying with the relevant requirements under the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 and Hong Kong legislation, especially those related to crew repatriation and SEA.

¹ "Extension of Crew Agreement Service Period in response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic"
(<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/faq/pdf/mlc200731.pdf>)

4. In this connection, MD urges all parties concerned to **immediately** review all SEAs under their Hong Kong registered ships, and ensure that no seafarers shall exceed the service period of 11 months on board without written approval from MD following the requirements set out in MD's Circular¹.

5. As part of International Safety Management (ISM) Company audit, MD has requested Recognized Organizations (RO) of Hong Kong registered ships/companies to verify seafarers' service time span on board, their SEAs validity, and records of SEA copy delivered to MD, and etc..

6. Should you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact us by email at mmo_mdd@mardep.gov.hk or by fax at (852) 2545 4669 or by telephone at (852) 2852 3075.

Yours faithfully,

(No signature on website copy)

(Z.J. KUANG)

Mercantile Marine Office
for Director of Marine

c.c.: Hong Kong Shipowners Association
Hong Kong Seamen's Union
Merchant Navy Officers' Guild
Amalgamated Union of Seafarers, H.K