



# South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref. SM 6/5/2/1  
SM14/2/2

Date: 29 May 2020

## Marine Notice No. 29 of 2020

### SAMSA Services Available at National Risk Level 3

TO ALL REGIONAL MANAGERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SURVEYORS, SHIP OWNERS, SHIP MANAGERS, MASTERS, RECOGNISED ORGANISATIONS, SMALL VESSEL OWNERS, SMALL VESSEL SKIPPERS, AUTHORISED AGENCIES, SAFETY OFFICERS, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

*Marine Notice No 20 of 2020 is cancelled*

#### *Summary*

This Marine Notice provides guidance on services provided by SAMSA during the SARS-COV2 pandemic at Risk Level 3

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

In line with the regulations issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2002 and the Directive by the Minister of Employment and Labour regarding Occupational Health and Safety Measures in Workplaces COVID-19:

- 1.1 SAMSA offices will be open from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 but with a reduced number of staff.
- 1.2 SAMSA offices will only be open to the public from 0800 – 1200 from the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. The number of persons permitted entrance will be limited in terms of national guidelines and will vary from office to office (Durban office may remain close until the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 for OHS reasons)
- 1.3 REMEMBER to self-screen before you plan to visit a SAMSA Office. You must not come to the office if you have any symptoms of a cold or flu or elevated temperature i.e. before you leave for the office, ask yourself if you have any of the following. If the answer is yes to any of these, stay at home.
  - a. Sore Throat?
  - b. Fever?
  - c. Cough?
  - d. Shortness of Breath?
  - e. Loss of taste or smell?
- 1.4 Both clients and staff will be subjected to the screening process, and the compulsory wearing of masks.
- 1.5 Social Spacing must always be exercised.
- 1.6 Any person not adhering to the requirements will be refused access

#### 2. SERVICES PROVIDED

- 2.1 SAMSA is providing services and survey attendance for commercial operations permitted under the current risk level.
- 2.2 Application must be made to the nearest SAMSA office in terms of MN28 of 2020, specifically, at least 72 hours prior to SAMSA attendance being required. In addition, Annex 1 & 2 of MN28 of 2020 must be submitted at time of application.

- 2.3 Notwithstanding the continued validity of Marine Notice 23 of 2020 COVID-19 – Process for extension of Certificate, Seafarer applications will be accepted from the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020.
- 2.4 Level 3 assessments (oral examinations) are not being conducted, however applications will be accepted in the interim.
- 2.5 Eyesight Examinations will not be conducted at Level 3.
- 2.6 Seafarers are strongly encouraged to download and complete application forms prior to applying at and visiting a SAMSA office.
- 2.7 Electronic submission of documentation is encouraged in all instances of application for service.

### **3. STATUTORY CERTIFICATES FOR ALL TYPES OF VESSELS**

#### **3.1 Local Vessel Certificates**

- 3.1.1 Applications for service will be assessed on a case by case basis. Part of the consideration by the PO will be the adherence and mitigations in place in terms of the OHS COVID-19 directives. The onus is on the applicant to conform to directives and inform SAMSA of same. If service cannot be provided, extension of currently valid certificates, may be considered. The following documents will then be requested;
- 3.1.2 Owner / Master / Operator to obtain the appropriate survey checklist and complete the checklist as applicable to the class of the vessel, area of operation and type of survey, filling in all details and marking any deficiencies noted.
- 3.1.3 Owner / Master / Operator to complete and sign the declaration form in the Annex and submit it together with the completed checklist to the PO of the local SAMSA office.
- 3.1.4 Upon receipt of the duly completed and signed checklist and declaration form, the PO may consider extending the certificate for an appropriate period, but no longer than 60 days.
- 3.1.5 Any exemptions issued must also be extended, similarly if the vessel has been issued a Safe Manning Document the same must also be extended, copies of these documents must be submitted.
- 3.1.6 Extending the validity of a certificate incurs no charge. However, if the certificate has expired, the certificate will not be extended and the vessel will not operate, until a survey has been carried out and found to be compliant.

#### **3.2 Servicing of Safety and firefighting equipment**

- 3.2.1 In terms of SOLAS III Regulation 20.8.1.1 the period of servicing of inflatable life rafts, inflatable lifejackets were extended by six months from 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (date of issue) of MN 20 of 2020. This extension continues to be valid and is subject to a recorded onboard inspection by the Master.
- 3.2.2 From the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2020, this automatic extension will stop. All safety and firefighting equipment requiring servicing from the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, or after must be serviced with a SAMSA accredited provider.

#### **3.3 International Surveys/Audits**

- 3.3.1 Where surveys are due on South African flagged vessels located overseas and it becomes difficult in obtaining the attendance by a surveyor of the vessels' Recognized Organization (RO), SAMSA will consider the extension of mandatory statutory survey windows by issuance of an exemption beyond the expiry date of the statutory certificate (to delay the required survey of up to three months), on a case by case basis. Owners / Operators / Masters are advised to apply for an extension to any Principal Officer (PO) in good time, before the expiry date to avoid Port State Control issues, by submitting the following:
  - 3.3.2 A letter detailing non-availability of a surveyor from the vessels RO.
  - 3.3.3 Completed Declaration, as attached in the Annex.

#### **3.4 Ship Pre-Registration Surveys**

- 3.4.1 Where a ship owner wishes to register a vessel on the South African Flag, and the vessel(s) are located overseas, SAMSA will allow an approved RO to conduct a Pre-Registration Survey on

behalf of SAMSA and submit all relevant documentation to the PO of the proposed South African Port of Registry for evaluation and conditional approval.

- 3.4.2 Owners are advised to contact the PO at the proposed South African Port of Registry to confirm which RO would be approved to carry out the survey.

### 3.5 Laid up Vessels

- 3.5.1 Several vessels will have been laid up for the period of lockdown. The owner is reminded of his obligation to ensure the vessel always remains in a safe condition.

## 4. SAFE MANNING

Under no circumstance may any vessel proceed to sea without the appropriate Safe Manning of the vessel.

<25GT: As per Local General Safety Certificate (LGSC)

>25GT: As per Safe Manning Document (SMD)

It is the responsibility of the Master to ensure that the vessel is safely manned and to ensure that the crew maintain the appropriate watchkeeping standards, hours of rest and that the vessel can always be safely navigated – this includes enabling the vessel to efficiently, effectively deal with any emergency situation onboard.

## 5. IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following Marine Notices provide essential additional information and should be consulted. All Marine Notices are available on the SAMSA website.

- 5.1 Marine Notice 28 of 2020 COVID-19 – Vessel Preparedness for Shore-Based Personnel Interaction
- 5.2 Marine Notice 27 of 2020 SAMSA’s Risk-based response to the COVID-19 Pandemic on Small Vessels and Essential Fishing Vessel Permitted Operations
- 5.3 Marine Notice 26 of 2020 Coronavirus Information and Emergency Contact Details
- 5.4 Marine Notice 25 of 2020 The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Security) Regulations, 2004. Revised PAN requirements: COVID-19 comes into effect from April 21, 2020.
- 5.5 Marine Notice 24 of 2020 Medical Evacuations from Vessels (MEDEVAC)
- 5.6 Marine Notice 23 of 2020 COVID-19 – Process for extension of Certificate

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## ANNEX

### Declaration for the extension of a valid Statutory Certificate

Recalling the Presidents declaration of a national lockdown effective from 23:59 H on 26 March 2020 following the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and taking into account that limited staff will be available during the period to conduct surveys, SAMS SA may consider extending the validity of valid statutory certificates for a period up to 60 days. To support the request for extension of the certificate the following declaration is required to be completed by the Owner / Master or responsible person:

**Name of Vessel :**

**Official No./Approved marking :**

**Name of Owner / Operator :**

#### DECLARATION:

**I, \_\_\_\_\_ HEREBY CERTIFY THAT:**

The vessel named above has been examined using the applicable checklist and maintained in compliance with the requirements for the extension of the following certificate:

**Certificate (title of certificate) :**

**Certificate number:**

**Date of expiry:**

The condition of the vessel, its structure, equipment, fittings, management and operation are satisfactory for the extension of the certificate for a period not exceeding 60 days from the date of expiry of the above.

**Signature :**

**Date :**

**Name :**

**Position :**

*Notes – A copy of this form shall be retained with the vessel for subsequent inspection - A false declaration may render the owner liable to prosecution*

#### For Official use only:

1. Request granted/denied
2. Details of extension

Principal officer signature \_\_\_\_\_