



# BERMUDA MERCHANT SHIPPING GUIDANCE NOTICE

Ukrainian Seafarers - STCW/MLC and contract extensions

2022-02

## Application

Ship Owners, Managers, Masters and Officers of Bermuda Registered ships.

## Summary

This notice is to summarise the Bermuda approach to contract extension and repatriation of Ukrainian seafarers on Bermuda registered ships.

This Notice was issued on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

## 1. Introduction

(1) Due to the situation in Ukraine, there are currently no commercial travel options available in or out of the country. This will impact on Ukrainian seafarers.

(2) It is likely that the Ukrainian Seafarer training facilities and Maritime Authority will not operate during the current crisis.

- a. This guidance is to clarify the BSMA position on provisions which can be made for Ukrainian Seafarers currently employed on a Bermuda registered ship.
- b. This guidance will also clarify acceptance of Ukrainian Certification and training.

## 2. Seafarers on Board Ships

(1) Ukrainian Seafarers may choose to extend their contracts past the original expiry dates.

- a. The BSMA will accept extension of Ukrainian Seafarers Employment Agreements (SEAs) beyond the MLC limit of 11 months.

- b. Extensions should be properly documented and signed, in advance of expiry of the original contract, by both the Seafarer and Master or other company representative.

(2) Ukrainian Seafarers who do not want contract extensions may be offered repatriation to a mutually agreed third country.

### 3. Recognition of Certificates

(1) The BSMA currently recognises Ukrainian Certificates of Competency (COC) for service on Bermuda ships. The issuing authority in Ukraine is likely to be closed for the foreseeable future.

(2) The BSMA will continue to recognize expired Ukrainian COC's with expiry dates after 1 February 2022, provided that the seafarer can show evidence that they have served on board a ship within the period of validity of the expired COC.

- a. Applications for these special Bermuda Endorsements must be made using the email application system via [endorsements@bermudashipping.bm](mailto:endorsements@bermudashipping.bm)

### 4. Review

(1) The BSMA is aware that the situation in Ukraine is constantly changing and this Notice will be kept under review and, if necessary, amended accordingly.

(2) If further assistance is required on a case-by-case basis or confirmation is required regarding any of the items discussed above, please contact the BSMA directly at [survey@bermudashipping.bm](mailto:survey@bermudashipping.bm)