



# BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

## SPECIAL BULLETIN #33 May 15, 2020

### **TRANSPORT CANADA ISSUES NEW TEMPORARY MEASURES REGARDING MARINE PERSONNEL CERTIFICATES, DISCHARGE BOOKS AND MARINE COUNTER SERVICES (SSB NO.:13/2020)**

Any certificate of competency, certificate of proficiency, examiner certificate or training certificate that expired between October 1, 2019 and March 15, 2020, is automatically extended until September 30, 2020. There is no need for the seafarer to make an application.

Any certificate of competency, certificate of proficiency, examiner certificate or training certificate that expires between March 16, 2020 and September 1, 2020, is granted an extended validity of 6 months (from date of expiry). There is no requirement to submit an application to obtain this extension.

#### **Medical Certificates**

Any marine medical certificate and provisional marine medical certificate that expires before September 1, 2020, is granted an extended validity of 6 months (from date of expiry). There is no requirement to submit an application to obtain this extension.

#### **Discharge Books**

Transport Canada has temporarily ceased the issuance of discharge books during the COVID-19 pandemic period. The Master of the vessel, the Chief Engineer, or the vessel's Authorized Representative can record, sign and stamp seafarers' sea service using either nautical or engineering testimonial forms which are relevant to the position held. Both forms are readily available through the Transport Canada forms catalogue (Forms [82-0546](#) and [82-0666](#) respectively).

Once services return to normal, seafarers can obtain a discharge book from a Transport Canada Marine Safety Examination Center and either:

- request appropriate authorized persons to complete entries missing in the discharge book, or
- use testimonials of sea service obtained during this COVID-19 pandemic period, as proof of sea service.

You can find the full text of Ship Safety Bulletin 13 here:

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/bulletins-2020-13>

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