



**estec**

European Space Research  
and Technology Centre  
Keplerlaan 1  
2201 AZ Noordwijk  
The Netherlands  
T +31 (0)71 565 6565  
F +31 (0)71 565 6040  
www.esa.int

**ESA Skills Training Schools**

Our ref. ESA-TECMSP-LE-020373

Noordwijk, 14/10/2020

**Subject: Extension of certification status due to COVID-19**

Dear all,

Due to continuing exceptional measures against the spread of COVID-19 that have not allowed your school to provide all necessary training in time and may continue to hinder planned attendance of applicant, ESA has decided to allow further extension of certificates ending between February 2020 until 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2021 by a maximum of 6 months, in order to allow you to re-schedule the training sessions for personnel in specific circumstances. This includes also those certificates already under extension, but the overall cumulative extension period should not be more than one calendar year.

The circumstances under which these further extensions may be granted include, but are not limited to:

1. Applicants from countries from/to which travel restrictions continue to exist or are introduced at short notice, between their country and the country where the training is to be delivered (as specified in the official governments' COVID-19 publications);
2. Applicants from companies which have travel bans (a letter from the company to the ESA School will be required);
3. Applicants from companies and countries from/to which there are no travel restrictions, but they themselves feel vulnerable and/or fall into a risk group compromising travel safety (a supporting letter from the employer needed).

Extensions should only be made if the applicant book or re-book a course in the future, thus showing commitment to be re-certified.

The re-certification of applicants already within an extension scheme shall be prioritized. The new successful re-certification will only be valid for a period of two (2) years starting from the original end date of the certificate.

This letter supersedes the previous notification ESA-TECMSP-MIN-017981 and ESA-TECMSP-LE-019311.

Please inform all your customers about this decision.

Sincerely Yours,

Carole Villette  
Materials and Processes Section

Copy ESTEC: M. Nikulainen, L. Marchand, A. Sieminska, T. Rohr