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## **ESA Skills Training Schools**

Our ref. ESA-TECMSP-LE-020373 issue 1

Noordwijk, 15/02/2021

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

Dear all,

The continuing exceptional measures against the spread of COVID-19 have not allowed the ESA Skills Training Schools to provide all necessary training in time and may continue to hinder planned attendance of the applicants. Consequently, ESA has decided to allow further extension of the certificates ending between February 2021 until 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2021 by a maximum of 6 months, in order to allow to re-schedule the training sessions for personnel in specific circumstances. This includes also those certificates already under extension. However, the overall cumulative extension period should not normally be more than eighteen (18) months.

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 universal travel bans for their employees due to COVID-19 (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 unwilling to travel (a supporting letter from the employer needed).

Extensions shall only be made if the applicants 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 as follows:

- a) For extensions of less than 12 months, the new certificate will be valid for a period of two (2) years starting from the original end date of the certificate.
- b) For extensions of more than 12 months but less than 18 months, the new certificate will be valid for a period of two (2) years starting from the date of the re-certification.
- c) For extensions that exceptionally are more than 18 months, the new certificate will be valid for one (1) year starting from the date of the re-certification.

This letter supersedes the previous notification ESA-TECMSP-MIN-0203723, ESA-TECMSP-LE-019311 and ESA-TECMSP-MIN-017981.

Please inform all your customers about this decision.

Sincerely Yours,

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Materials and Processes Section

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