



Response to the Questionnaire

Courts procedures in Colombian jurisdiction and flag administration

1. Are the Courts in your jurisdiction open and functioning as per normal?

Answer

No.

On March 12, the Ministry of Health declared a State of Health Emergency due to Covid-19 throughout the national territory, until May 30, 2020.

There is no Access to the Courts.

Judicial terms throughout the country were suspended from March 16 to April 12, with the following exceptions:

- Criminal courts
- Constitutional actions for the protection of fundamental rights
- Habeas corpus
- Control of legality of decrees and administrative acts issued in development of the State of Economic and Social Emergency decreed by the National Government on March 17, 2020.

2. If not, are there any exceptions to the arrest of ships and / or are other injunctive or enforcement procedures available?

Answer

No. Except for the previous ones, there are no exceptions for these procedures.

3. Can Judicial Sale of Ships still take place?

Answer

No.

4. Do you know how long the Courts in your jurisdiction will be closed for?

Answer

We don't know; but, due to the quarantine measure decreed by the Colombian Government, the courts will be Closed, at least, until April 26.



5. Is the flag registry in your jurisdiction (if applicable) operating as per normal in terms of the registration of ships and registration of mortgages and deletion of same.

Answer

From April 2, as long as the Health Emergency due to Covid-19 is overcome, the Colombian Maritime Authority (DIMAR) suspended the issuance of certificates of provisional/definitive registration of ships as well as tradition and freedom certificates.

However, DIMAR did not suspend the registration cancellation procedures.

6. Has your flag administration issued any special exemptions for the period of the Pandemic.

Answer

Yes, DIMAR extended the validity of the statutory certificates of ships that expire between March 22 and June 15, until August 15, notwithstanding that it may be extended as long as the Health Emergency to address the Pandemic created by Covid-19 is overcome.

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Colombian Maritime Law Association

April 11, 2020