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4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT  
LONDON SE1 7SR  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.4223/Add.6  
9 September 2021

To: All IMO Members  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan has sent the attached communication, dated 8 September 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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**THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
HIGH TECHNOLOGIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
THE STATE MARITIME AGENCY**

2B Khanlar str., Baku, AZ1003,  
<https://www.ardda.gov.az>

Tel.: (+99412) 497 44 05; Fax: (+99412) 497 44 06  
Email: [info@ardda.gov.az](mailto:info@ardda.gov.az)

No 120-1-07/532-d1

"08" September 2021 y

**H.E. Mr. Kitack Lim  
International Maritime Organization  
4, Albert Embankment  
London  
SE1 7SR  
United Kingdom**

**Your Excellency,**

I would like to extend thanks and appreciation for every endeavour made to prioritise rapid access to vaccinations for seafarers who are a unique population with its own needs and requirements. Prioritization of seafarers in COVID-19 vaccination programmes has a major influence on ensuring safe crew changes and prevention of disruption to travel during the pandemic.

As a country that has designated seafarers as "key workers", we are always willing to deploy every effort to support the seafarers who are the heroes of the pandemic. In recognition of their essential service, the State Maritime Agency revised currently applicable measures with the aim of mitigating the effects of these unprecedented times.

I would be especially grateful if the updated communication could be circulated and brought to the attention of all parties concerned.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**Enclosure: 1 page**

**Yours Sincerely,**

**Capt. Gudrat Gurbanov  
Director of the State Maritime Agency**



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Tel.: (+99412) 497 44 05; Fax: (+99412) 497 44 06  
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No 120-1-07/532-21

" 08 " September 2021 y

**All Azerbaijani Seafarers, Shipowners, Shipping Companies,  
Port State Control and Flag State Authorities,  
Manning/Crewing Agencies and Other Individuals Concerned**

**Subject: Amendments to the adopted procedures for the mitigation of disruption to the delivery of essential services in the event of the COVID-19 pandemic**

**Recognizing** the vital role of seafarers in conducting global trade and reaffirming seafarers as key workers that deliver vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other essential goods and services across borders,

**Noting** the importance of maintaining efficient shipping services by minimizing inevitable disruption during the current COVID-19 outbreak,

**Having considered** the relevant recommendations of IMO on taking a pragmatic and practical approach with regard to the extension of certificates and endorsements in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, and

**Recognizing also** the significance of facilitation of shore leave and transit and transfer of seafarers in terms of seafarers' general well-being, along with ensuring maritime safety and protection of the marine environment,

In view of the difficulty in obtaining certificates/documents due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Maritime Agency introduces the following amendments to the procedures indicated in the Circular Letter No.120-1-07/340-21 of 9 June 2021 (IMO Circular Letter No.4223/Add.5 of 10 June 2021),

1. The validity of certificates, the endorsements for recognition of certificates issued by other Governments and other documents issued in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, and the validity of Seafarers Identity Documents issued in line with Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185) are extended until **31 December 2021** inclusive, if the validity of such certificates/documents has expired or is due to expire onboard ships engaged in international voyages.
2. The submission of the following documents for the extension of the validity of the certificates/documents shall remain in force:
  - .2.1 Official letter from the concerned ship owner/principal, crewing agent or seafarer stating the reason for the extension.
  - .2.2 Written statement or official issuance from the port or immigration Authority that disembarkation is not allowed in the wake of the current circumstances.
  - .2.3 Copy of valid employment contract.