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

Subject: Communication from the Government of Georgia

The Government of Georgia has sent the attached communication, dated 16 August 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

***
To: All Georgian Seafarers, Ship owners, Shipping Companies, Port State Control and Flag State Authorities, Manning/Crewing Agencies and Other Individuals Concerned

Reference: Order N10 of the Director of the Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia dated August 06 2021 on amending Order 05 of April 06, 2020 “On certain measures to be taken in the Georgian seafarers’ certification and training system in connection of the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19”.

Taking into consideration that there might be Georgian Seafarers who are currently serving onboard ships engaged in the international trade and their disembarkation cannot be safely completed in a planned period due to a restrictions caused by COVID-19 pandemic, Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia has taken additional steps in seafarers’ certification system to cope with the negative consequences of the pandemic.

According to above mentioned order, validity of seafarers’ documents expiring before 1st October 2021 can be extended for a period not exceeding 3 months subject to the application of shipowner/ship manger to the agency.

The shipowner/ship manager shall include the following information when requesting extension of the validity of the seafarers’ certificates of competency or proficiency, seamen’s books:

- The period of the seafarer’s service
- The location of the ship
- The next port of call

The application shall also include the agreement of the seafarer in written form attesting his consent to the extension of the certificates.

Translated version showing a new amendment is attached to this circular letter. All concerned parties/individuals are advised to take content of this letter into consideration.

Agency Director

Signed/Sealed Electronically

Tamara Ioseliani
On amending Order 05 of April 06, 2020 “On certain measures to be taken in the Georgian seafarers’ certification and training system in connection of the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19”

According to Article 20 and paragraph 4 of Article 25 of the Organic Law of Georgia “On Normative Acts” and sub-paragraph “d” of paragraph 2 of article 4 of Order №1-1/585 Of the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia “On Approval of the Charter of the Legal Entity of Public Law the Maritime Transport Agency”, I order the following:

Article 1. Order 05 of April 06, 2020 “On certain measures to be taken in the Georgian seafarers’ certification and training system in connection of the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID19” shall be amended and “33” and “34” shall be added.

1. The following sub-paragraphs „35a, „36a, „37” and „38a” shall be added:

„35a. Certificates of Seafarers, who are now engaged in international navigation and whose certificates (certificates of competency or proficiency, seamen’s books) are expiring before 1st October 2021, upon the written application of the shipowner or/and ship manager company, shall be extended for a period not exceeding 3 (three) months starting from the moment of expiry.

„36a. The extension of the validity of certificates of competency or proficiency, seamen’s books is through the issuance of a letter by MTA, the form of which is hereby annexed to this order as Annex N1.
37. The shipowner/ship manager shall include the following information when requesting extension of the validity of the seafarers’ certificates of competency or proficiency, seamen’s books: the period of the seafarer’s service; the location of the ship, the next port of call, the application shall also include the agreement of the seafarer in written form attesting his consent to the extension of the certificates.

38. Subject to the same conditions of laid down in sub-paragraph 35, medical certificates of Seafarers, who are now engaged in international navigation and whose certificates are expiring by 1st October 2021, shall automatically be renewed for a period of three months.

2. The following paragraph 6 shall be added to this rule:
„6. In the event of extension of seafarers certificates of competency or proficiency and seamen’s books, the seafarers’ department shall ensure the up-to-date keeping of the seafarers electronic registry."
Annex 1

The form of Seaman's Book, Certificate of Competency/Proficiency validity extension letter

(Model Letter)

To whom it may concern ------------------

The LEPL "Maritime Transport Agency" confirms, that the seafarer ------------------ who is currently working on board

(Full name, date of birth, personal N)

a ship ------------ sailing under the ----------- flag, for the position ------------

, (Ship name)   (State name)   (Position on the ship) Seaman's Book, Certificate of Competency/Proficiency

(Document N)
Is prolonged to -------------, until -------------, 

(Day, month, year)

Because of the impossibility of disembarkation of seafarer.

Authorized official

First Name,

Last

Name, Signature
Article 2

This order shall come into force from the moment of its publication.

Director

Tamar Ioseliani