Circular Letter No.4223/Add 5
10 June 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 9 June 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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

Your Excellency,  

I wish to express my sincere admiration for the remarkable efforts put by You to respond to the challenges facing seafarers who are in the “front line” of the global fight against the pandemic.  

In support of the seafarers stranded at sea and/or unable to travel due to the introduced curtailments, the State Maritime Agency has introduced amendments to the currently applicable measures in order to facilitate international trade and avoid unnecessary interference in these unprecedented times.  

It would be highly appreciated if this communication could be circulated and brought to the attention of all Member States and interested parties.  

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.  

Enclosure: 1 page  

Yours Sincerely,  

Capt. Gudrat Gurbanov  
Director of the State Maritime Agency
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.120-1-07/149-21 of 11 March 2021 (IMO Circular Letter No.4223/Add.4 of 11 March 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 30 September 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.