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Circular Letter No.4223/Add 4
11 March 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 11 March 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



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

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No 120-1-07/149-21

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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.

We would appreciate if this communication could be circulated and brought into the attention of the 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, Ship owners, 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 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 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.120/01/04-I7.4/550 of 09 December 2020 (IMO Circular Letter No.4223/Add.3 of 09 December 2020),

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 June 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.