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Circular Letter No.4232/Add.4
15 June 2020

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 15 June 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



საქართველოს მუდმივი
ნარეპრეზენტაცია საერთაშორისო
საზღვაო ორგანიზაციაში



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PERMANENT REPRESENTATION
OF GEORGIA TO THE INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME ORGANIZATION

N 88/15636

15/06/2020

To: **Mr Kitack Lim**
Secretary General
International Maritime Organization
4, Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR UK

Dear Secretary-General,

I am writing to update you regarding steps made by the Georgia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially regarding the recent decision to allow crew changes in the ports of Georgia both for Georgians and seafarers of different nationalities.

In this challenging time, as a vital gateway for the region, Georgia guarantees safe and effective operations of its ports to insure frictionless maritime trade based on relevant recommendations of the IMO, WHO, ILO and the Government of Georgia.

In this regard, I am authorised to present attached correspondence of Ms. Tamar Ioseliani, Director of the Maritime Transport Agency (MTA) of Georgia and the new order of the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, that designs seafarers as “key workers” and permits crew changes in the Georgian ports.

I would like to kindly ask assistance of the Secretariat to forward this information to the IMO Member States.

I wish you, your family and all collaborators good health and a productive week.

Looking forward to meeting you soon at IMO headquarter and resuming our official and social gatherings.

Attachment: 3 pages

Yours sincerely,

Tamar Beruchashvili
Permanent Representative of Georgia at IMO

საქართველოს
ეკონომიკისა და მდგრადი
განვითარების სამინისტრო



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA

სსიპ საზღვაო ტრანსპორტის
სააგენტო

LEPL MARITIME TRANSPORT
AGENCY



KA020190556022020

სსიპ საზღვაო ტრანსპორტის სააგენტო საქართველო, ქ.ბათუმი, 6000, ბაქოს ქუჩა N50. ტელ.:+995 422 27 49 25/26
50 Baku Str., 6000, Batumi, Georgia. Tel.:+995 422 27 49 25/26

№ 02/1104

2020 / 06 / 12

To: H.E Kitack Lim
Secretary General
International Maritime Organization
4, Albert Embankment London
SE1 7SR United Kingdom

Dear Secretary-General,

I have the honor to inform you that Georgia, starting from 15th of June 2020, will start to allow crew changes in the ports of Georgia. As per the order of the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, seafarers have been designated as “key workers” and crew changes is allowed in Georgian ports both for Georgians and seafarers of different nationalities. The requirements for sign-in and sign-off on vessels calling in Georgian ports are hereby annexed to this letter.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to kindly ask the assistance of the secretariat to forward the information contained in the Annex to the other IMO Member States.

Moreover, I wish to assure you that Georgia has implemented a wide range of precautionary measures to ensure the smooth operation of the maritime and port sector in the country. Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia (MTA), as the national regulator of the maritime transport field, has implemented different solutions in response of the pandemic taking into consideration the relevant recommendations issued by the IMO, WHO, ILO and the Government of Georgia.

Annex: “2” pages.

Yours sincerely,

Director

SIGNED/SEALED
ELECTRONICALLY

Tamar Ioseliani



Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

Order N1-1/211

June 09, 2020

Tbilisi

**EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CONTROL AND QUARANTINE RULES TO PREVENT THE SPREAD
OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DURING THE MOVEMENT OF SEAFARERS IN
GEORGIA**

Clause 1. Purpose

1. In connection with the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19, special measures are taken to ensure the unimpeded and safe movement of seafarers on the territory of the State of Georgia in order to prevent the spread of the novel Coronavirus during the movement of seafarers in Georgia.
2. The profession of seafarer, for the purposes of this order, is declared a key profession.

Clause 2. Special Measures

1. The possibility of crew change in the whole territory of Georgia is announced in case of observing the following conditions:
 - a) The crew has served his/her full employment contract period;
 - b) The crew is no longer medical fit to work on board the ship;
 - c) Additional crew on board whose sign-off would not violate the international certificate for safe manning of the ship granted by the flag state;
 - d) Change of crew due to the sale or purchase of ship
 - e) Personnel who are not part of the ship's crew such as superintendents and service engineers.
2. The crew sign-off requirements:
 - a) Confirmation that the crew has not gone ashore in the last 14 days before leaving the ship and had not showed signs of COVID-19 throughout that period;
 - b) Fit to travel medical certificate is issued by medical institution authorized by the Maritime Transport Agency of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
 - c) Proof of expiry of employment contract or unfit for work medical report, where applicable;

- d) Relevant documentation supporting required crew change (e.g. sale/purchase agreement of ship)
 - 3. The crew sign-on requirements:
 - a) Proof and confirmation that the crew has been in quarantine for at least 14 days prior to departing his/her home country and has been well throughout that period
 - b) COVID-19 test (polymerase chain reaction (PCR) type) with negative result at his/her home country not more than 48 hours prior to his/her departure flight
 - c) Fit to travel medical certificate issued by a doctor at his/her home country more than 24 hours prior to his/her departure flight
 - 4. Transfer Arrangements:
 - a) The crew must be transferred directly from the ship to the point of arrival/departure in Georgia. If this is not possible, the crew will be placed on a temporary site in Georgia, which operates in accordance with the rules established by the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia. The requirements of the Resolution N322 of the Government of Georgia of May 23, 2020 "On the Approval of Isolation and Quarantine Rules" shall apply in this case;
 - b) The ship will not be allowed to depart from Georgia until the completion of the crew change process, i.e. sign-off crew has departed Georgia and/or sign-on crew has boarded the ship;
 - c) Seafarers shall carry seafarer's documents, including seaman's book, employment contract and other details which identify his/her status as a seafarer;
 - d) Seafarers should carry letter of guarantee issued by employer, travel plan, seafarer details, ship data, etc.;
 - 5. A shipowner shall submit request for crew change along with necessary documentation to the Maritime Transport Agency of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia.
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