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

Circular Letter No.4232/Add.1
17 April 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 9 April 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.



საქართველოს მუდმივი
ნარეგისტრირებული საერთაშორისო
საზღვაო ორგანიზაციაში

PERMANENT REPRESENTATION
OF GEORGIA TO THE INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME ORGANIZATION

N 14256-88

09/04/2020



14256-88-3-202004092308

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

Dear Secretary-General,

I am writing to inform you regarding recent activities of Georgia in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

In this challenging time, as a vital gateway for the wider region, Georgia ensures safe and effective operations of its ports to keep maritime trade going taking into consideration 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 new regulation of the MTA "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".

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 positive outcome of this extraordinary situation.

Looking forward to meeting you soon at IMO 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



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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

№ 10/758

2020 / 04 / 08

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

Dear Secretary-General,

I would like to present you the steps Georgia has taken in its seafarers' certification system to cope with the negative consequences of the pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

The attached document includes new regulation providing an exception in accordance with the legislation of Georgia in the seafarers' certification field of Georgia regarding the spread of the novel coronavirus Covid-19.

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.

Taking this opportunity, 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: "4" pages.

Yours sincerely,

Director

SIGNED/SEALED
ELECTRONICALLY

Tamar Ioseliani

საქართველოს საზღვაო
ტრანსპორტის სააგენტო



MARITIME TRANSPORT
AGENCY OF GEORGIA

**Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
Maritime Transport Agency Director's**

Order N5

April 6 2020

Batumi, Georgia

“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 5 of Article 25 of the Organic Law of Georgia “On Normative Acts”, article 61 of the Law of Georgia “On the General Administrative Code of Georgia”, paragraph 5 of article 8 of the Law of Georgia “On Administration and Regulation in the Field of Transportation”, Articles 1 and 5 of the Law of Georgia “on Seafarers education and certification”, Circular No.4204/Add.5 dated 17th March 2020 of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on “Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance relating to the certification of Seafarers” 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

The adoption of the annexed “certain measures to be taken in the Georgian seafarers’ certification and training system in connection of the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19”.

Article 2

Order №01 dated 12 March 2020 of the Director of Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia on “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” be repealed from the moment of the entry into force of this order.

Article 3

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

Director of Maritime Transport Agency

Tamar Ioseliani

Certain measures to be taken in the Georgian seafarers' certification and training system in connection of the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19"

Article 1. Objective

1. The aim of these measures is to make an exception in accordance with the legislation of Georgia in the seafarers certification field of Georgia in regard with the spread of the novel coronavirus Covid-19.

2. The validity of all seafarers' documents (certificate of competency/certificate of proficiency/seamen's book) which are set to expire by 1st September 2020, are automatically extended for 6 months. No application by the individual seafarer is needed for this purpose.

3. All medical certificates which have expired after 1st January 2020 of seafarers currently serving on-board vessels shall be automatically extended by 6 months. No application by the individual seafarer is needed for this purpose.

4. Seafarers, whose certificates of competency or proficiency are expiring during the period of limitations set up in connection with COVID-19 and were registered or will register for relevant courses needed to renew their certificates in the training centers authorized by the Agency, which were not provided nor they will be held due to limitations caused by COVID-19, can submit an application for renewal of certificates starting from 22 April 2020. The Agency shall issue relevant certificates to such seafarers subject to the fulfillment of other requirements prescribed by Georgian legislation. Seafarers to be able to use this right shall present proof of registration on appropriate training courses in appropriate training center. Administrative letter, which will be issued on such certificates, shall set obligation, that management/operational level seafarers and support level seafarers in 6 and 9 months respectively shall pass relevant training course. After the expiry date, in case of failure to undergo the training, the issued certificate shall be suspended. Taking into account maritime safety issues, the conditions set up by the previous paragraph do not concern seafarers, whose certification to respective position is done for the first time.

5. In case of need, the Seafarers' Department of the Agency shall be responsible to issue relevant notice in accordance of this article.

Article 2. Notification of International Organizations

This order shall be communicated to Member States of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with the assistance of the IMO secretariat.