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Circular Letter No.4223/Add 7
21 December 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 21 September 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



**MINISTRY OF DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT AND
TRANSPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
STATE MARITIME AND PORT AGENCY**

2B Khanlar str., Baku, AZ1003
Telephone: (+99412) 497 44 05; Fax: (+99412) 497 44 06; Email: info@ardda.gov.az

№ 120-1 06/1/738-21

" 21 " December 2021 y

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

Your Excellency,

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation for every endeavour taken by International Maritime Organization aimed at prioritising rapid access to vaccinations for seafarers who are a unique group of people with their own needs and requirements. Prioritization of seafarers in COVID-19 vaccination programmes has a major influence on ensuring safe crew changes and prevention of travel disruptions during the pandemic.

As a country that has designated seafarers as "key workers", we are always willing to deploy every effort to support the seafarers who are one of the heroes of the fight against pandemic. In recognition of their essential service, the State Maritime and Port Agency revised currently applicable measures with the aim of mitigating the impacts of these unprecedented times.

I would be grateful if the updated communication could be circulated and brought to the attention of all parties concerned.

Enclosure: 1 page

Yours Sincerely,

**Arif Mammadov
Chairman of the Board
State Maritime and Port Agency**



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**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 and Port Agency introduces the following amendments to the procedures indicated in the Circular Letter No.120-1-07/532-21 of 8 September 2021 (IMO Circular Letter No.4223/Add.6 of 9 September 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 **31 March 2022** inclusive, if the validity of such certificates/documents has expired or is due to expire on board 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.