

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT LONDON SE1 7SR

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.4223/Add.8 21 March 2022

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 18 March 2022, 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

Nº 120-1-06/1/175-22

"18" March 2022 y

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

Your Excellency,

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

I would like to express my gratitude to the International Maritime Organization for sincere and devoted efforts to prioritise easy access to vaccinations for seafarers who are one of the heroes of the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. In recognition of seafarers' essential services during this crisis, the State Maritime and Port Agency revised currently applicable measures with the aim of mitigating the impacts of these unprecedented times.

It would be greatly appreciated if the updated communication could be disseminated through a Circular to the attention of all parties concerned.

Enclosure: 1 page

Yours Sincerely.

Arif Mammadov

Chairman of the Governing Board State Maritime and Port Agency



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

Nº 120 - 1-06/1/175 -22

"18" March 2022 y

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. 120-1-06/1/738-21 of 21 December 2021 (IMO Circular Letter No.4223/Add.7 of 22 December 2021),

- 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) of Azerbaijani seafarers who are currently serving on board ships engaged in international and near-coastal voyages in the period of working contract that are expiring between the period of 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022 may be extended to 30 June 2022.
- 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.
- 3. Any seafarers on leave or not in the period of working contract on board ships shall submit extension request to the maritime education and training institutes approved by the State Maritime and Port Agency under the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan for issuance and revalidation of the certificates that empower them to perform their duty.