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Circular Letter No.4223
18 March 2020

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan sent the attached communication, dated 18 March 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.



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

2B Khanlar str., Baku, AZ1003,
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No 120/01/04-17.4/137

" 18 " March 2020 y

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

Subject: Contingency plans to mitigate disruption to essential delivered services in the event of a COVID-19 pandemic.

Excellency,

State Maritime Agency has introduced practical measures that are designed to alleviate the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. This is a public health challenge and necessitates cooperation of governments on prevention of the spread of COVID-19 in order to minimize the risk to the health of seafarers as well as the general public.

The enclosed document is the information on extending the validity of the STCW certificate/s of seafarers in this prevailing circumstance and the introduced measures are aimed at lessening overall impact on Seafarer Training and Certification services delivered by the State Maritime Agency.

To this end, I would like to kindly request the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization to disseminate the attached information among the Member States.

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Enclosure: 1 page.

Sincerely,

**Capt. Gudrat Gurbanov
Director of the State Maritime Agency**



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All Azerbaijani Seafarers, Ship owners, Shipping Companies, Port
State Control and Flag State Authorities, Manning/Crewing
Agencies and Other Individuals Concerned

Subject: Contingency plans to mitigate disruption to essential delivered services in the event of a COVID-19 pandemic

Given that that there might be Azerbaijani Seafarers who are currently serving onboard ships engaged in the international voyage and whose Seafarers Identity Document or/and STCW Certificate/s may expire on board in view of the fact that their expected shore leave cannot be safely completed in countries that introduced national and local restrictions due to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus – COVID19 pandemic **or,**

Whose Seafarers Identity Document or STCW Certificate/s shall expire onboard during the period of their voyage to and from the next convenient port where shore leave of concerned Seafarer can be safely carried out

State Maritime Agency may extend the validity of their certificate/s for a duration of up to **three** months from the date of expiry of the Seafarers Identity Document or/and STCW certificate/s subject to the following conditions:

1. The concerned manning/Crewing Agencies, Shipping Companies or seafarer shall send an application for the extension of validity, on the condition that the following requirements are submitted/presented:
 - 1.1 Official letter from the concerned ship owner/principal, Crewing Agent or seafarer stating the reason for the extension;
 - 1.2 Written statement or official issuance from the port or immigration Authority that disembarkation is not allowed in the wake of the current circumstances;
 - 1.3 Copy of valid employment contract.