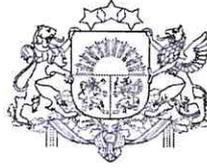

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Circular Letter No.4280/Add.1
25 June 2020

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

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

The Government of the Republic of Latvia has sent the attached communication, dated 25 June 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



Satiksmes ministrija

Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia

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Rīga 25. 06. 2020 Nr. 08-01/2420

His Excellency Kitack Lim
The Secretary - General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7 SR, United Kingdom

Maritime Sector in Latvia after lifting of emergency situation (COVID-19)

Dear Secretary - General,

The Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia would like to inform the International Maritime Organization (IMO), according to the Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.5, of the following measures regarding maritime sector after conclusion of the emergency situation caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

The emergency situation due to the pandemic of the coronavirus COVID-19 ended on 9 June 2020 and number of measures and restrictions were introduced in accordance with the newly adopted regulatory framework to continue preventing the spread of Covid-19, including the Cabinet Regulation No.360 "Epidemiological security measures to limit the spread of Covid-19 infection".

In accordance with this Regulation the movement of persons and vehicles via border crossing points of the external border of the European Union from/to the countries published on the website of the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control of Latvia, where the prevalence of Covid-19 infection is recorded, which may pose a serious public health risk, with the exception of freight transport, is prohibited. This prohibition shall not apply to the seafarers required to reach their place of employment on the ship or need to return from it.

In order to limit the spread of Covid-19, Maritime Administration of Latvia has made changes in provision of services:

- Submission or reception of documents at the Registry of Seamen, and assessment of the competency of seafarers is provided only by appointment in advance. Submission or reception of documents, and assessment of the competency of seafarers, are provided by appointment only. Maritime Safety Inspectorate and Ship and Port Security Inspectorate provide services in routine manner;
- Professional education programmes and short training programmes of seafarers are implemented in compliance with the abovementioned Cabinet Regulation and the guidelines of the Registry of Seamen No. 2020/5 "Guidelines regarding implementation of the short training programmes of seafarers during the prevention of the spread the Covid-19 disease", adopted on 10 June 2020;

- If the seafarer holds a valid Qualification Certificate (COC or COP), issued in accordance with chapter II, III of the STCW Convention, but any of the training COP or DE issued in accordance with the STCW regulations V/2, VI/1, VI/2, VI/3 or VI/4, has expired, the validity of the training course certificate is automatically extended until the end of the voyage.

Up-to-date information regarding services provided by Maritime Administration of Latvia has been published on the webpage of the Maritime Administration of Latvia www.lja.lv/en.

We kindly request the circulation of this information to the IMO Member States.

Sincerely,



Tālis Linkaits

Minister of Transport
