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Circular Letter No.4245/Add.5  
21 December 2020

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

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

The Government of the Republic of Turkey has sent the attached communication, dated 17 December 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure  
Directorate General for Maritime Affairs

Ref No: 70886  
Ankara, 17 December 2020

H.E. Mr. Kitack LIM  
Secretary General  
International Maritime Organization

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Operational measures concerning impact of novel Corona Virus (Covid-19), adopted by the Republic of Turkey was conveyed with our letters which were circulated with Circular Letters 4245, 4245/Add.1 and 4245/Add.4.

Further measures have been taken to assist shipowners, operators and seafarers to ensure smooth operation of maritime trade. These measures have been issued with our enclosed letter.

The Organization is kindly requested to circulate these measures to the attention of the IMO Member States.

Yours Sincerely,

Ünal BAYLAN  
Director General

Enclosed: Letter



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure  
Directorate General for Maritime Affairs

**COVID-19 – Further Extension of Certificates of Seafarers**

Operational measures concerning impact of novel Corona Virus (COVID-19), adopted by the Republic of Turkey was conveyed with our letters which were circulated with Circular Letters 4245, 4245/Add.1 and 4245/Add.4.

Temporary measures that were taken according to the above-mentioned letters are valid until 31.12.2020.

Given the ongoing severity of the COVID-19 epidemic and unresolved challenges such as timely repatriation of seafarers at the end of their contract and revalidation of their expiring certificates, the vital need to extend the certificate periods of seafarers has arisen.

In this context, the validity of the Turkish Seafarers' Seaman's Books, Certificate of Competencies (COC), GMDSS Radio Operator Certificates (ROC/GOC/REO), STCW Certificates and Medical Fitness Certificates are granted general extension of validity up to **31.03.2021** without any further application or approval processes.

Yours Sincerely,

Ünal BAYLAN  
Director General

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