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Circular Letter No.4239/Add.2
2 July 2021

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of The Independent State of Samoa**

The Government of the Independent State of Samoa has sent the attached communication, received on 2 July 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

Tel : (685) 21 611
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Private Bag, MWTI
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Level 4, TATTE Building, SOGI



Please, address all Correspondence to the
Secretary for Transport/ Chief Executive
Officer

File Ref:

GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

3 March 2021

H.E. Mr. Kitack Lim
Secretary General
International Maritime Organisation
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
UNITED KINGDOM

Excellency,

**Temporary Extension of Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiencies for
Samoan Seafarers**

The Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (also the Maritime Administration) of the Government of the Independent State of Samoa wishes to convey our gratitude and appreciation to the IMO Secretariat for your ongoing support and assistance to Samoa on the implementation of IMO Instruments.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has profoundly impacted on our shipping operations, work patterns and many aspects of our administrative and regulatory processes, particularly, our seafarers employed on foreign vessels. To that end, we would like to inform the Secretariat that Samoa has granted an extension of six (6) months validity period to Certificates of Competency and Certificates of Proficiency, respectively issued to Samoan seafarers engaged internationally.

The condition of the extension is as follows:

1. Six (6) months' extension is effective from the expiry date of the STCW Certificate, specifically those that expire in 2021, while employed on board a foreign vessel. This extension is to facilitate, as the case may be, the continuity of employment, or an extension of the term of employment agreed between the employer and the seafarer, to await repatriation to Samoa.

This decision may be reviewed from time to time.

May I take this opportunity to assure Your Excellency of Samoa's continued commitment to meet our obligations under IMO Instruments.

Yours sincerely

Magale Hoe Viali
Secretary for Transport / CEO

cc: Hon. Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
Hon. Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure
CEO, MFAT
