PHILIPPINES

Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic

“Challenges faced by seafarers and identification of best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia”

4 and 5 November 2020
Around 100,000 ships carry almost 95% of the world’s trade.

These ships are operated by close to 1.5 Million seafarers; around 378,000 of which are Filipinos.
Like doctors and nurses, seafarers have continued to work day and night while combatting fear, anxiety and great risk to their own health to keep the world trade afloat.

#SeafarersAreKeyWorkers
POLICY ISSUANCES

Two (2) out of 75 Advisories issued by the MARINA focused on the following:

**MARINA Advisory 2020-66:**
“Further Extension of the Validity of STCW Certificates as a Temporary Contingency Measure Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic”

**MARINA Advisory 2020-67:**
“Extending the Coverage of Expiring SIRB/SRB for Seafarers Currently Onboard Ships and Ashore Operating both in Domestic and Overseas”
MARINA has issued additional guidelines on the conduct of training programs via ‘Blended Learning’ mode during General Community Quarantine (GCQ), as a response to the need to provide a platform for our seafarers to complete their required training who may have been directly impacted as a result of quarantine lockdowns that prevented Maritime Training Institutions (MTIs) to deliver their programs face-to-face.

1. MARINA approved courses shall be delivered through a Blended Learning Mode of training, which makes use of Face to Face and e-Learning platforms. Guidelines for the conduct of Blended Learning is provided in Annex A while a checklist to record compliance with the guidelines is provided in Annex B.

2. Applications including the self-assessment column of the checklist from Annex B and other documents shall be submitted to the Accreditation Division of the MARINA-STCW Office through email: stcw_accre@marina.gov.ph.

3. MTIs may conduct the Blended Learning Mode of training once they receive a receipt of an acknowledgement from the Office of the Executive Director through the Accreditation Division.

4. MTIs whose applications are approved are granted a provisional authority valid for (6) months or until full face-to-face conduct of classes is allowed.
The Department of Transportation (DOTr) issued the **Philippine Protocol on Crew Change and Repatriation of Seafarers**, which contains the detailed procedures and health and safety protocols for repatriation and the conduct of crew change, both in domestic and international ports.
Philippines has communicated recently to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) the Philippine Guidelines for the establishment of the Philippines Green Lane to facilitate the speedy and safe travels of seafarers, including their safe and swift disembarkation, and crew change during the COVID-19 pandemic, as a response to the international organization’s recommendations for safe ship crew changes.
The DOTr, through its Maritime Sector, opened Ports in **Manila, Subic, Bataan** and **Cebu** as *international hub and gateway ports for crew change*.

**ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE PHILIPPINES**

Repatriated a total of **73,078** seafarers as of 16 October 2020.
MARINA continuously monitoring the **Passenger and Cargo Shipping Operations** in areas under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) and General Community Quarantine (GCO).