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Circular Letter No.4237/Add.11
22 September 2020

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

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

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has sent the attached communication, received on 22 September 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PASUGUAN NG REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
LONDON

No. FRC - 56 - 2020

The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and has the honour to transmit a letter addressed to Secretary-General Kitack Lim from the Philippine Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) concerning the Recognition of the Philippines Issuance of Seafarers' Identity Document (SID) and the newly enhanced Seafarers' Record Book (SRB) formerly Seafarers' Identification and Record Book (SIRB). Also enclosed are samples of the Philippines eSID and SRB with manual for reference.

The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines has the further honour to request that this communication, and the enclosed letter with samples of the Philippines eSID and SRB with manual, be circulated to all Member States of the IMO.

The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the IMO the assurances of its highest consideration.

London, 4 September 2020.

International Maritime Organization
Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR





29 August 2020

HIS EXCELLENCY KITACK LIM

Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embarkment
London SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

Subject: **Recognition of the Philippines issuance of Seafarers' Identity Document (SID) and the newly enhanced Seafarers' Record Book (SRB) formerly Seafarers Identification and Record Book (SIRB)**

Your **Excellency**:

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) of the Republic of the Philippines intends to convey the following information to member States of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Port State Control (PSC) authorities, and other parties concerned:

1. The MARINA takes cognizance of the vital role of every Member States in taking swift and decisive actions for crew change, joining ship, disembarkation, repatriation and crew substitution of seafarers around the world despite strict imposition of travel restriction and closure of ports due to the COVID 19 pandemic;
2. Acceptable and effective documentation of seafarers that is recognized by every member States of the IMO is the primordial solution and practical approach to facilitate the easy movement of seafarers during this pandemic;
3. In view of the foregoing, MARINA respectfully informs the IMO that as a result of the Philippines' ratification of the International Labor Organization (ILO), Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention 185, this Authority is bound to issue the Seafarers Identity Document (SID) in fulfillment of its international commitment. The Philippines had complied with the ILO independent evaluation but still waiting for the official recognition to be included in the White List of countries issuing a fully compliant electronic SID (eSID) pursuant to the ILO and ICAO standards;
4. The issued eSID with supplemented passport to Filipino seafarers will easily facilitate entry to the territory of member States that ratified the SID Convention and will resolve the urgent question of seafarers being refused admission into territory of countries visited by their ships for purposes of shore leave, transit and transfer to join or change ships;

5. With the issuance of the eSID, MARINA will no longer issue the old Seafarers' Identification and Record Book (SIRB), and in lieu thereof, have started to issue a *newly enhanced and more secured Seafarers' Record Book (SRB)*, removing from it the "identification" features, which was transferred to the eSID. The SRB is now solely for **sea service record purposes only** and should not be used as a travel document for visa stamping. Immigration authorities are expected to refer to the seafarers Philippine passport for this purpose;
6. All ships and companies concerned were advised to coordinate and make necessary arrangements with their Flag Administration for the endorsement and recognition of the Filipino seafarers' SID and SRB;
7. Shipping and manning companies were likewise requested to advise the Master of their ships to present the copy of this communication to PSC authorities and all other ship inspectors/auditors, as a reference document informing that the Philippines' SID and SRB are official documents issued to Filipino seafarers; and
8. Port State Control authorities and all other ship inspectors/auditors are duly requested to accept the copy of this communication as disseminated by the IMO Secretary-General, to serve as notice that the Philippines is now officially issuing SID and SRB for Filipino seafarers.

In this regard, the MARINA, as the Philippine's Maritime Administration, respectfully requests His Excellency's kind assistance in extending the contents of this communication to the attention of all concerned, especially to the IMO Member States and Port State Control authorities.

Accept, Your Excellency, our assurance that the Republic of the Philippines, through the MARINA, is steadfast in its commitment to promote all the goals and undertakings of the IMO amidst these challenging times.

Attached are the samples of the Philippine eSID and SRB with a manual for your kind reference.

With our highest esteem and warmest regards.

Very truly yours,


VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator

A/S 

NOTE VERBALE

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) of the Philippines has the honor to present our new Philippine Seafarer's Record Book (SRB) and the new Seafarers' Identity Document (SID) as part of the new SID-SRB System.

Our SRB will have a validity of 10 years. All issued SRB will be internationally interoperable and will be recognized by all members through the implementation ICAO Document 9303.

The Seafarers' Identity Document will have a validity of 5 years. It is also internationally interoperable and compliant to the standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 185 and ICAO Document 9303.

Please see attached specimen with description of its new and improved security features.

SECURITY FEATURE DESCRIPTION

The new Seafarer's Record Book (SRB) is fully compliant with ILO requirements in cooperation with the ICAO 9303 recommendations, featuring:

1. Overt Features

- a. Colored Printing of Photo
- b. Machine Readable Zone (MRZ)
- c. Traceable SRB Barcode Stickers
- d. Surys Secure Holographic Laminate for SRB
 - i. 1st Level Authentication
 - Wide Angle Iridescent Animation – When the hologram is moved top/bottom on a very wide viewing angle, high diffractive colored elements are animated
 - High Diffractive Colors are assigned to different elements
 - Vertical Achromatic Switch - Marina logo appears in bright achromatic color and shows a positive to negative effect upon vertical tilt
 - White Diffractive Embosse - The boat bar appears from top to middle view in white color, rendering a slight 3D embossing effect
 - Achromatic Switch - When the hologram is tilted left/right, the achromatic elements are permuting positive to negative alternatively
 - Kinetic White Animation - When the document is tilted left/right and observed around top view, white diffractive lines show kinetic animation.
 - Kinetic Iridescent Animation - When the document is tilted left/right and observed around bottom view, diffractive lines show kinetic animation
 - Low Reflective Area (Bi-Matt effect) - The MRZ area is covered by a specific gloss reduction technology which renders this surface reflectivity significantly lower than the personal data ones. It delivers the following functionalities:
 - a very low gloss in the MRZ area to guarantee an improved readability
 - Additional security watermark pattern showing a bi-tone contrast change
 - This security feature is compatible with the MRZ and 2D area
 - ii. 2nd Level Authentication
 - White Micro Photo - Matt micro photo visible with a magnifier (x10)
 - 180^o Control- At closer examination, the vertical achromatic switch can be observed upon 180^o rotation in the document's plan

- Microelements - High diffractive micro-lettering, readable with a magnifier (x10)
- iii. 3rd Level Authentication
 - Very high definition nano-texts pattern for forensic inspection (2 x100 microscope)

2. Covert Features

- a. Jura IPI™ Hidden Information
 - i. Eliminates photo-replacement and data manipulation
 - ii. Based on a secure process to hide individual, variable personal information into the applicant's printed photo image such that each individual photograph is unique and hides his/her individual data (Name, SRB Number, date of birth, etc.)
 - iii. Data can be readable via inexpensive decoding lens (UV 235-171°)
 - iv. The hidden image is printed together with the photo as a unified image, where the primary image is visible to the naked eye
- b. Jura LetterScreen++
 - i. Unique wavy microtext 1st level verification used for passports worldwide; Microtext is personalized.
 - ii. Created along with a unique structure by a special algorithm based on personal data.

SECURITY FEATURE DESCRIPTION

The card is fully compliant with ILO requirements in cooperation with the ICAO 9303 recommendations, featuring:

1. Overt Features

- a. Ghost Image
- b. Colored Printing of ID Card Photo
- c. Color Shifting Ink
- d. Ultraviolet Ink
- e. Microprinting
- f. Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) at the back of the card
- g. Card Inventory Barcode
- h. Guilloche Background
 - i. Guilloche pattern and design in the pre-printed card
- i. Surys Secure Holographic Laminate
 - i. Dual sides laminations with holographic gratings on the front and clear laminate on the back
 - ii. 1st Level Authentication
 - The boat bar appears from top to middle view in white color, rendering a slight embossing effect
 - When card is tilted left/right, and observed around top view, white diffractive lines show kinetic animation
 - When card is tilted left/right, and observed around bottom view, diffractive lines (wave-like image) show kinetic animation
 - Gradual Iridescent Morphing - When card is tilted top/bottom, a bright iridescent effect expands gradually from white diffractive symbol to the deep rainbow sun of the emblem outline
 - Colorful Diffractive Image - When card is tilted top/bottom, at a medium angle the emblem and text are seen with their different colors
 - Vertical Achromatic Switch – The Marina logo appears in bright achromatic color and shows a positive to negative effect upon vertical tilt
 - iii. 2nd Level Authentication
 - At closer examination, the vertical achromatic switch can be observed upon 180° rotation
 - High diffractive micro-lettering of “REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES” in the wave-like diffractive lines, readable with magnifier (x10)
 - iv. 3rd Level Authentication
 - Very high definition nano-texts pattern for forensic inspection (≥ x100 microscope)

2. Covert Features

- a. Jura ICI™ Hidden Image
 - i. Data can be readable via inexpensive decoding lens (UV 350-75°)
 - ii. Hidden Marina logo can be seen when lens is vertical
 - iii. Hidden Marina text is visible when lens is put horizontally on top of the card
- b. Contactless IC Chip
 - i. Data storage capacity of 32 kb

3. Digital Feature – Photometrix™

- a. Secure 2D-code with the picture of the bearer in the middle
 - b. Automatically link and verify the picture of the bearer with the key permanent data of the holder
 - c. Can do offline/online verification in less than 10 seconds
 - d. Readable with Android™ phones or IOS™ phones with unmodified camera of at least a 2K format camera and with a 2K display
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