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Circular Letter No.4237/Add.13
20 October 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 19 October 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

ANNEX



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

OCT 19 2020

HIS EXCELLENCY KITACK LIM
Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR

Dear Excellency:

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) of the Philippines extends its greetings to the Secretary General and the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and expresses its full support in your call to adopt and apply practical and pragmatic approach to ensure uninterrupted flow of commerce by sea at this unprecedented time.

It is noted that the IMO Secretary General, in his message to the member states implores the aid of the maritime administration to consider the seafarers as essential workers during this unprecedented time.

In view thereof, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has issued MARINA Advisory Nos. 2020-67 and 2020-73 which have effectively granted extension of Seafarer's Record Book (SRB) or Seafarers Identification and Record Book (SIRB) for seafarers currently onboard ships and ashore operating both domestic and overseas as well as of STCW Certificates for a period of one (year) from the date of expiry for those SIRB/SRB and STCW Certificates which are expiring between 31 March 2020 to 31 December 2020 without the need to file for an application at the MARINA.

Relative thereto, the Philippines, through the MARINA, respectfully requests the assistance of the IMO to bring this information to the attention of all concerned through circulation of the attached MARINA Advisories.

Rest assured that the Philippines expresses its highest cooperation in your efforts to ensure continuous flow of commerce by sea amidst this pandemic.

With my highest esteem and warmest regards.

Very truly yours,

VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator

Attach.: A/S

PCJ/JLH/MKHHV
CONTROL NO: OSS-ISDD-0320

MARINA Building
20th Street corner Bonifacio Drive
1018 Port Area (South), Manila

Tel. Nos: (632) 523-9078 / 526-0971
Fax No: (632) 524-2895
Website: www.marina.gov.ph



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

SEP 22 2020

MARINA ADVISORY
NO. 20-20 - 73
SERIES OF 2020

TO : ALL SEAFARERS, LICENSED MANNING AGENCIES (LMAs) / SHIPPING COMPANIES, SHIP OWNERS AND OPERATORS, STAKEHOLDERS AND ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : EXTENSION AND REVALIDATION OF STCW CERTIFICATES AS A TEMPORARY CONTINGENCY MEASURE AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The actions taken worldwide and within Philippines, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, has severely affected the conduct of trainings, revalidation of certificates, and the ship to shore interactions including the crew changes. For that reason, the maritime industry stakeholders are seeking longer extension of validity of the STCW certificates of Filipino seafarers to gain continued employment opportunity on board ships.

In response thereto, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) adopts IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.5/Rev.1 dated 02 April 2020 which encourages the issuing Administration and the Port State Control authorities to take a pragmatic and practical approach with regard to the extension of the validity of seafarer's certificates and endorsement, as strictly necessary, in accordance with the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended.

THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that all STCW certificates issued by the MARINA which are expiring between 13 March 2020 to 31 December 2020 (dates inclusive) shall be extended for a period of one (1) year from the date of expiry of the certificate without need to file for an application at the MARINA. This applies to all STCW certificates of all Filipino seafarers who are both ONBOARD or ASHORE at the time of the expiry of their certificates;

- The concerned licensed manning agencies and shipping companies are required to ensure that their crew are compliant with the above-mentioned STCW requirements, and are hereby directed to submit to MARINA the list of their crewmember/s whose validity of STCW certificate/s have been extended pursuant to this Advisory. An

electronic copy of the said information shall be submitted via e-mail at certificate_extension@mail.marina.gov.ph following the attached template in **Annex A.**

REVALIDATION AND EXPEDITE PROCESSING

1. All applications for revalidation of certificates of seafarers who were affected by the suspension and/or unavailability of trainings and assessments even where the COP and COC have expired or expiring within the period 13 March 2020 to 31 October 2020 will still be processed as revalidation and be given five (5) years validity from the date of issuance subject to the compliance of complete documentary requirements;
2. Applications for revalidation of STCW certificates without the required refresher trainings and/or practical assessment of competence, shall be accepted and processed on line, COP and COC revalidated pursuant to this advisory shall have a validity period of **one (1) year only** from the date of issuance subject to the following:
 - 2.1. Only seafarers who are scheduled for deployment within 10 calendar days from the date of application are qualified under this advisory and has completed the seagoing service for a period of at least:
 - 2.1.1 Twelve (12) months in total during the last 5 years prior to revalidation; OR
 - 2.1.2 Three (3) months in total during the last 6 months immediately prior to revalidating;
 - 2.2 COP in tanker courses shall be accepted for revalidation, even if expired, provided the applicant seafarer has completed approved seagoing service, performing the duties appropriate to the tanker certificate held, for a period of at least 3 months in total during the preceding 5 years;
 - 2.3 Seafarers applying for revalidation of COP and COC shall meet the standards of medical fitness specified in Section A-I/9 of the STCW Code, and a valid medical certificate from the DOH-accredited medical clinic shall be submitted / encoded into the MISMO system;
3. Applications under this Advisory shall be filed for expedited processing through the Liaison Officer of concerned licensed manning agency/shipping company.

Documentary requirements for the expedite application shall be uploaded into the MISMO system as follows:

- 3.1 Letter from concerned licensed manning agency duly signed by authorized official requesting for expedited processing of the application of its seafarer; and
- 3.2 POEA-approved employment contract.

FURTHER, all seafarers are encouraged to apply for revalidation of their Certificate of competency (COC) and COP after completing their online/offline courses, as applicable to their certificate to be revalidated at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the standard requirements for revalidation. In which case, the 5-year validity date shall be reckoned from the original expiration date of the previous certificate.

FURTHERMORE, the provisions of MARINA Advisory Nos. 2020-63 and 2020-66, Series of 2020 and all other issuances which are contrary to this Advisory are hereby rescinded.

This Advisory shall take effect immediately and shall be valid until 31 December 2020 unless sooner revoked or a separate advisory was issued extending the validity of this Advisory.

| Name of Seafarer | Capacity (Position) | Extended Certificate (COP/COC/COE) | Date of Expiry of Certificate | Name of Ship | Name of Ship owner | IMO Number & Flag of ship |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| For strict compliance. | | | | | | |
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VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator

ANNEX A



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY



28 August 2020

MARINA ADVISORY NO. 2020-67

TO : ALL SEAFARERS, LICENSED MANNING AGENCIES / SHIPPING COMPANIES, SHIP OWNERS AND OPERATORS, STAKEHOLDERS AND ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : EXTENDING THE COVERAGE OF EXPIRING SIRB/SRB FOR SEAFARERS CURRENTLY ONBOARD SHIPS AND ASHORE OPERATING BOTH IN DOMESTIC AND OVERSEAS

The actions taken worldwide and within Philippines, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, has severely affected the ship to shore interactions, and to facilitate employment including the conduct of crew changes. For that reason, the Maritime Industry Authority realized the need for a longer extension of validity of the Seafarer's Record Book (SRB) or Seafarers Identification and Record Book (SIRB) of Filipino seafarers who could not disembark their vessels and be safely repatriated due to travel restrictions imposed by several countries.

To alleviate the plight of the Filipino seafarer, and with reference to MARINA Advisory no. 2020-58 dated 30 July 2020, notice is here given of its further amendment, to provide as follows:

"All Seafarer's Record Book (SRB) or Seafarer's Identification and Record Book (SIRB) currently serving on board ships and ashore expiring between 13 March 2020 to 31 December 2020 shall be extended for a period of one (1) year from the date of expiry without the need to file for an application at the MARINA."

FURTHER, seafarers who are not on board are hereby directed to RENEW their SIRB/SRB six (6) months prior to its expiration.

FURTHERMORE, the provisions of MARINA Advisory No. 2020-58, Series of 2020 and all other issuances which are contrary to this Advisory are hereby ordered rescinded.

FINALLY, all concerned manning/crewing agencies and shipping companies are hereby directed to submit to MARINA the list of their crewmember/s whose validity of SRB and SIRB have been extended pursuant to this Advisory. An electronic copy of the said information shall be submitted via e-mail at mds@marina.gov.ph following the attached template in Annex A.

This Advisory shall take effect immediately.


VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)

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20th Street corner Bonifacio Drive
1018 Port Area (South), Manila

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