
4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.4237/Add.1
16 April 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, dated 8 April 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

**MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY**

08 April 2020

HIS EXCELLENCY KITACK LIM

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

Subject: **Further extension of validity of STCW certificates of Filipino seafarers currently onboard seagoing ships amid challenges caused by COVID-19**

Your Excellency:

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) of the Republic of the Philippines has issued the attached **MARINA Advisory No. 2020-23** with subject "Further extension of validity of STCW certificates of Filipino seafarers currently onboard seagoing ships amid challenges caused by COVID-19".

Under the said Advisory, the validity of the STCW certificates issued to Filipino seafarers that expired or may expire during the period 13 March to 31 May 2020 shall be extended for six (6) months from the date of expiry. This is one of the measures taken by MARINA to cope with the travel restrictions worldwide where many countries are continuously prohibiting the transfer and transit of seafarers for purposes of disembarkation, embarkation and crew change to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 within their respective jurisdiction. Furthermore, this is also in accordance with the extension of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in the country to 30 April 2020.

In this regard and in reference to IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.5, this Maritime Administration respectfully requests His Excellency's kind assistance to circulate this Advisory to the IMO Member States, Port State Control authorities and other parties concerned.

Accept, Your Excellency, our assurance that the Republic of the Philippines through the MARINA is with you and the IMO in "our voyage together" in these unusual times.

Very truly yours,

VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

06 April 2020

MARINA Advisory 2020- 23

Series of 2020

TO : ALL MANNING / CREWING / SHIPPING COMPANIES, SHIPOWNERS AND OPERATORS, STAKEHOLDERS, SEAFARERS AND ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : FURTHER EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF STCW CERTIFICATES OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS CURRENTLY SERVING ONBOARD SEAGOING SHIPS AMID CHALLENGES CAUSED BY COVID 19

In view of the increasing number of cases of Coronavirus Disease (COVID -19), and with the issuance of Republic Act 11469 entitled “*An Act Declaring the Existence of a National Emergency Arising from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation and a National Policy in Connection Therewith, and Authorizing the President of the Republic of the Philippines for a Limited Period and Subject to Restrictions, to Exercise Powers Necessary and Proper to Carry Out the Declared National Policy and For Other Purposes*”, **Items I.1 and I.4 of MARINA Advisory 2020-16** are hereby amended to state that:

“I.1 The validity of STCW certificates issued by MARINA to Filipino seafarers that have expired or about to expire during the period 13 March 2020 to 31 May 2020 shall be extended for six (6) months from the date of expiry of the certificate concerned.

All concerned manning/crewing/shipping agencies are hereby advised to carry out the following:

- a. Coordinate with their principals or ship owners to make necessary arrangement with the Flag Administration of their ships for the extension of validity of the corresponding endorsement attesting recognition of the Filipino seafarers’ STCW certificate;***
- b. Provide the ship owner/operator or principal, ship Master and their seafarers with a copy of this Advisory; and***
- c. Certify the names and positions of seafarers whose certificate have been extended, the names of the ships and shipowners, the IMO number and the flag of the ships, and details of the STCW certificate of the seafarer following the format shown in Annex A. An electronic copy of the certification duly signed by the company’s authorized official/s shall be submitted immediately to MARINA e-mail address at oed@marina.gov.ph.***

1.4 All applications for revalidation of certificates of seafarers who are affected by the suspension of trainings and assessments will still be processed even if the COP and/or COC has or have already expired within the period of 13 March 2020 to 30 June 2020. This is subject to the compliance of complete documentary requirements.”

For information and guidance of all concerned.



VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator

ANNEX A

Date

**The Officer-in-Charge
Office of the Executive Director
STCW Office
Maritime Industry Authority**

Dear Sir:

Hereunder are the names of crewmembers of _____ (Name of Manning/Crewing Agency) whose STCW certificate/s have been extended pursuant to MARINA Advisory _____:

Name of seafarer/s	Capacity / Position	Type of Certificate (COC/COE or COP) to be extended	Date of Expiry	Name of Ship	Name of Shipowner	IMO Number and Flag Ship

For your information and reference.

Very truly yours,

(Name and Signature of Authorized Official)