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Circular Letter No.4237/Add.16
18 November 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 16 November 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

NOV 16 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 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 that it is imperative that global trade must continue amidst the pandemic. The Member States, industry leaders, seafarer support organizations and other stakeholders should promote an understanding considering that the seafarers are key workers since the essential commodities are carried by sea.

In view thereof, the MARINA has issued Advisories in order to address the challenges, hardships and sacrifices that seafarers have made to keep the global supply chain moving while helping the global population.

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 following MARINA Advisories:

1. MARINA ADVISORY NO. 2020-08 RE: Guidance Concerning Filipino Seafarers Onboard Vessels Affected by Restrictions in connection with 2019 NCoV Outbreak
2. MARINA ADVISORY NO. 2020-52 RE: Guiding Principles (Step-based Approach) Developed by International Association of Classification

Page 1 of 2



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

Societies (IACS) regarding Surveys and Renewals of Certificates during the COVID-19 Pandemic

3. MARINA ADVISORY NO. 2020-62 RE: Joint Circular No. 01 – 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

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

SAC/SACO
CONTROL NO: OSS-CSMID-0179



MARINA ADVISORY No. 2020-08
Series of 2020

TO: ALL SEAFARERS, SHIP OWNERS, SHIPPING COMPANIES, PORT STATE CONTROL, FLAG STATE, OTHER ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE CONCERNING FILIPINO SEAFARERS ONBOARD VESSELS AFFECTED BY RESTRICTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE 2019-nCoV OUTBREAK

Considering the recent outbreak of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease (2019-nCoV ARD) affecting populations in various parts of the world, several countries have imposed travel advisories which include trade restrictions resulting to the limited entry and exit of ships to and from ports of affected countries, particularly in China and its Special Administrative Regions.

Taking into account that there might be seafarers on Philippine-flagged vessels whose STCW certificate/s shall expire onboard because their planned disembarkation cannot be safely completed in affected ports, or whose STCW certificate/s shall expire onboard during the period of their voyage to and from the next convenient port where disembarkation of the concerned seafarer can be safely carried out, the Administration may issue the necessary dispensation permit upon application of their respective Manning/Crewing Agencies and Shipping Companies pursuant to MARINA Circular No. 2011-02.

Moreover, all local ship management and manning companies should immediately coordinate with the Flag State Administration of their affected vessels for whatever arrangement and extension of all necessary assistance to all seafarers, particularly Filipino seafarers with expiring STCW certificate/s.

This Administration likewise advises the Master of the concerned vessels to request a written statement from the Port or Immigration Authorities that disembarkation is not permitted due to the prevailing situation. This written statement can be presented as an evidence to the next port of destination or convenient port where the concerned seafarer can disembark and be replaced by a new crew.

Finally, all ship owners/shipping companies, port state control and flag state authorities, other entities and individuals concerned, especially Filipino seafarers currently onboard vessels operating within the affected areas, are encouraged to exercise precautionary measures necessary to prevent transmission of the disease.

Please be guided accordingly.

VADM NARCISO A VINGSON JR
Officer-in-Charge
Office of the Administrator

Date of Publication: 11 February 2020
Business Mirror
Date of Submission to ONAR:

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MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

02 July 2020

MARINA ADVISORY

No. 2020 - 52

Series of 2020

- TO** : All Concerned Government Agencies, MARINA Recognized Organizations, Flag States, Port Control Authorities, Shipowners/Bareboat Charterers/Ship Operators/Ship Managers/ Ship Masters of Philippine-Registered Overseas Ships, Manning Agencies, Filipino Seafarers Onboard, and Other Concerned Entities
- SUBJECT** : **Guiding Principles (step-based approach) Developed by International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Regarding Surveys and Renewals of Certificates During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Please be advised that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) issued Circular Letter No.4204/Add.19 Coronavirus (COVID-19), entitled: Guidance for Flag States Regarding Surveys and Renewals of Certificates During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Heeding the call of the IMO Secretary General to limit the issuance of short-term certificates or other measures to specific situations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and for relevant decisions to be made on a case-by-case basis, please be advised that MARINA Advisory No. 2020- 30, entitled: Further Extension of Statutory Certification and Services as a Temporary Contingency Measure During the COVID-19 Pandemic is hereby modified. We hereby adopt the Guiding Principles (step-based approach) developed by the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) when considering whether to permit statutory certificate extension beyond three (3) months.

It is recalled that due to the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the conduct of surveys, the MARINA had introduced alternative arrangements through MARINA Advisory No. 2020- 25 and MARINA Advisory 2020-30 allowing the issuance of short-term certificates or extending certificates beyond the statutory maximum.

With the issuance of IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.19, the MARINA, in observance of the prevailing principle of maintaining the highest level of compliance with existing statutory and classification provisions, shall consider the Annex providing for the Guiding principles on the provision of technical and implementation advice to flag States when considering whether to permit statutory certificate extension beyond 3 months.

As stated in the said Circular and the recommendations presented by its Recognized Organizations (ROs), the MARINA as the flag State will be following this step-based approach in order to lead to an informed decision-making process when deciding whether to permit the extended operation of the ship beyond the three (3) month statutory period:

Step 1: Have all options for completing the survey and renewing the certificates (using all available means permitted by the Administration) been exhausted?

Step 2: For each case of demonstrated exceptional circumstances and/or force majeure, examine the available information on the ship and its history as a means to considering alternative evidence on the conditions of the ship in lieu of completing the survey and offering a recommendation to its flag State.

Step 3: Consider how the requirements of the convention and classification rules can be shown to be met in the interim without changing the requirements themselves.

Step 4: Use verification requirements which are based on accepted survey procedures

Step 5: Consider alternative evidence for assessing compliance to account for:

- a. Confidence (how accurate a representation of the actual condition is this?)
- b. Durability (i.e. how long can this be considered a valid evidence before revalidation is required?)

Step 6: Concluding with an overall documented evidence on which the extension period and any service restrictions are based.

Further, the MARINA, its ROs and the shipowners/operators shall continue to improve its mechanism to ensure effective communication to allow consultation among all parties.

Finally, all survey certificates that were issued during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) shall remain valid subject to periodic review. All statutory certificates that were issued prior to the issuance of this Advisory shall likewise remain valid.

IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.19 can be viewed and downloaded at the MARINA website at www.marina.gov.ph

For the information and strict compliance of all concerned.



VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator



Attach: A/S

Control Number: OSS-CSMID-0068



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

16 July 2020

MARINA ADVISORY

No. 2020-62

Series of 2020

TO : All Concerned Government Agencies, Flag States, Port Control Authorities, Shipowners/Bareboat Charterers/ Ship Operators/Ship Managers/Ship Masters of Philippine-Registered Overseas Ships, Licensed Manning Agencies, Filipino Seafarers Onboard, Airlines and Other Concerned Entities

SUBJECT : **JOINT CIRCULAR No. 01 – 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 the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues and noting the substantial challenges being faced by the global shipping industry to effect crew changes, the Philippines, through the cooperative and collective efforts of the following agencies – the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Immigration; the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Overseas Workers Welfare and Administration (OWWA); the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), and the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA); the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG); the Department of Health (DOH) and the Bureau of Quarantine and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth); the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG); and the Department of Foreign Affairs – has caused the issuance of Joint Circular No.1, providing 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.

Joint Circular No. 1 was issued to give attention to the recommended framework of protocols for ensuring safe ship crew changes and travel during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic under IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.14 and to recognize the vital importance of the seafarers to the maintenance of global supply chains.

The copy of the said Joint Circular can be viewed and downloaded at <https://marina.gov.ph/marina-advisory-flag-state-administration-advisory/>.

For the information and compliance of all concerned.



VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD, AFP (Ret)
Administrator



Control No.: OSS-CSMID-0085
