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Circular Letter No.4237/Add.17
22 December 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 21 December 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY



DEC 21 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.

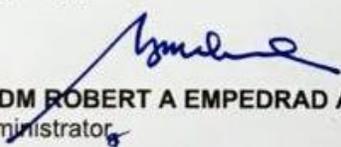
In view thereof, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has issued MARINA Advisory Nos. 2020-83 and 2020-88 that have effectively granted further extension of the revalidation period of STCW Certificates for a period of one (1) year from the date of expiry for those certificates which are expiring between 13 March 2020 to 31 December 2020 and 01 January 2021 to 30 June 2021, respectively, 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-0433

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



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

DATE: **NOV 16 2020**

MARINA ADVISORY
NO. 2020 - 83
SERIES OF 2020

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

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

The actions taken worldwide and within the 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 effecting crew changes. For this reason, the maritime industry stakeholders are seeking for a 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 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.

In view thereof, the following guidelines relative to the extension of the validity and revalidation of the STCW certificates are hereby issued:

I. EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF STCW CERTIFICATES

1. All STCW certificates issued by the MARINA that have expired or are expiring **between the period of 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 the 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 and who are compliant with the following provisions of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended:**

- a. Completed approved seagoing service performing duties appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
 - (i) Twelve (12) months in total during the last 5 years prior to revalidation; OR,
 - (ii) Three (3) months in total during the last 6 months immediately prior to revalidating;
 - b. For Certificate of Proficiency (COP) in in tanker courses, the seafarer must have 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; and
 - c. Meet the standards of medical fitness specified in Section A-I/9 of the STCW code.
2. The concerned licensed manning agencies and shipping companies are required to ensure that the 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 email at certificate_extension@mail.marina.gov.ph following the attached template in Annex A.

II. REVALIDATION AND EXPEDITE PROCESSING

1. All application for revalidation of certificates of seafarers that have expired or are expiring within the period **13 March 2020 to 31 December 2020** will still be processed as revalidation, and the revalidated COP or Certificate of Competency (COC) shall be given five (5) years validity from the date of their issuance subject to full compliance with the 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, and the corresponding COC or COP to be issued shall have a validity period of **one (1) year only** from the date of issuance subject to compliance with the following:
 - a. Only seafarers who are scheduled for deployment within the 10 calendar days from the date of application are qualified under this advisory;
 - b. Applicant seafarers must have completed approved seagoing service performing duties appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
 - (i) Twelve (12) months in total during the last 5 years prior to revalidation; OR
 - (ii) Three (3) months in total during the last 6 months immediately prior to revalidating;

- c. COP in tanker courses shall be accepted for revalidation, even if expired, provided the applicant seafarer has completed seagoing service, performing the duties appropriate to the tanker certificate held, for a period of at least three (3) months in total during the preceding 5 years;
- d. 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;

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:

- 2.1 Letter of concerned licensed manning agency duly signed by authorized official requesting for expedited processing of the application of its seafarer;
- 2.2 POEA-approved employment contract; and,
- 2.3 OEC- overseas employment certificate

FURTHER, all seafarers are encouraged to apply for revalidation of their Certificate of Competency (COC) and Certificate of Proficiency (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 No. 2020-73, 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.

For strict compliance.


VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator 



ANNEX A

(Company letterhead and logo)

Date: _____

The Executive Director
Office of the Executive Director
STCW Office
Maritime Industry Authority

Dear Sir/Madam:

Hereunder are the names of our crewmember/s whose STCW certificate/s have been extended pursuant to MARINA 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 your information and reference.

Very truly yours,

(Name & signature of authorized official)



DEC 09 2020

MARINA ADVISORY
NO. 2020-88
SERIES OF 2020

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

SUBJECT : FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE REVALIDATION PERIOD FOR 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 effecting crew changes..

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.

In view thereof, the following guidelines relative to the extension of the validity and revalidation of the STCW certificates are hereby issued:

I. EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF STCW CERTIFICATES

1. All STCW certificates issued by MARINA that are expiring between the period **01 January 2021 to 30 June 2021 (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 and who are compliant with the following provisions of the STCW Convention, 1978 as amended:**

- a. Completed approved seagoing service performing duties appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
 - (i) Twelve (12) months in total during the last 5 years prior to revalidation;
OR
 - (ii) Three (3) months in total during the last 6 months immediately prior to revalidating;
 - b. For Certificate of Proficiency (COP) in tanker courses, the seafarer must have completed seagoing service performing the duties appropriate to the tanker certificate held, for a period of at least three (3) months in total during the preceding 5 years;
 - c. Meet the standards of medical fitness specified in Section A-1/9 of the STCW Code.
2. The concerned licensed manning agencies and shipping companies are required to ensure that the crew are compliant and 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 email at certificate_extension@mail.marina.gov.ph following the attached template in Annex A.

II. REVALIDATION AND EXPEDITE PROCESSING

1. All application for revalidation of certificates of seafarers that have expired or are expiring within the period **01 January 2021 to 30 June 2021** will still be processed as revalidation, and the revalidated COP or Certificate of Competency (COC) shall be given five (5) years validity from the date of their issuance subject to full 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, and the corresponding COC or COP to be issued shall have a validity period of **one (1) year only** from the date of issuance subject to compliance with the following:
 - a. Only seafarers who are scheduled for deployment within 10 calendar days from the date of application are qualified under this advisory;
 - b. Applicant seafarers must have completed the seagoing service performing duties appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
 - (iii) Twelve (12) months in total during the last 5 years prior to revalidation;
OR

(Company letterhead and logo)

Date: _____

The Executive Director
Office of the Executive Director
STCW Office
Maritime Industry Authority

Dear Sir/Madam:

Hereunder are the names of our crewmember/s whose STCW certificate/s have been extended pursuant to MARINA 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 your information and reference.

Very truly yours,

(Name & signature of authorized official)
