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Circular Letter No.4237/Add.23
9 September 2021

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 3 September 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

SEP 03 2021

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

Dear Excellency:

The Philippines through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) 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.

We fully recognize and note 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, this Office issued MARINA Advisory No. 2021-29 providing further extension of the validity of STCW Certificates as a temporary contingency measure amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic. This measure adapts to the 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.

Relative thereto, we respectfully request the assistance of the IMO to bring this information to the attention of all concerned through circulation of the attached MARINA Advisory.

The Philippines expresses its highest cooperation in your effort to ensure continuous flow of commerce by sea amidst this pandemic.

Very truly yours,


VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator

cc: Maritime Attaché in London


CONTROL NO: OSS-ISDD-0961



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

JUN 01 2021

MARINA ADVISORY
NO. 2021-29
SERIES OF 2021

**TO : ALL SEAFARERS, LICENSED MANNING AGENCIES (LMA's),
SHIPPING COMPANIES, SHIP OWNERS AND OPERATORS,
STAKEHOLDERS AND ALL CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT: FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF 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 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 thereto, the following guidelines relative to the extension of the validity of the STCW certificates are hereby issued.

1. All STCW certificates previously extended by virtue of earlier issued MARINA Advisories bearing reference numbers "MA-2020-83", "MA-2020-73", "MA-2020-66", and "MA-2020-64" (all series of 2020) but were not re-validated up to now due to lack of refresher training as applicable to their certificate to be revalidated shall be **extended up to 31 December 2021** without need to file for an application of extension at the MARINA. This applies to all seafarer's who are both ONBOARD or ASHORE on the date of issue of this Advisory
2. All STCW certificates issued by MARINA that are expiring between the period **01 July 2021 to 31 December 2021** (dates inclusive) shall be extended for a period of **one (1) year** from the date of expiry of the certificates without need to file for an application of extension at the MARINA. This applies only to all seafarers who are ONBOARD on the date of issue of this Advisory.

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

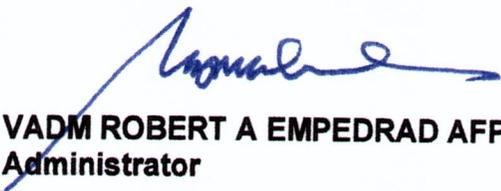
Tel. Nos: (632) 523-9078 / 526-0971
Fax No: (632) 524-2895
Website: www.marina.gov.ph

3. 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.

In spite of this extension, all seafarers are hereby encouraged to apply for revalidation of their Certificates of Competency (COC) and Certificates 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 certificates.

This Advisory shall take effect immediately and shall be valid until 31 December 2021 unless sooner revoked or a separate advisory was issued extending the validity of this Advisory.

For the guidance and strict compliance of all concerned.



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)	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)

