

[MIA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 151, October 15, 1999]

REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE ISSUANCE OF ENDORSEMENT OF CERTIFICATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1978 STCW CONVENTION

Pursuant to Section 12 (e) of Executive Order No. 125, as amended, and in consonance with the Philippines' accession to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) through the Instrument of Accession dated 11 January 1984 and pursuant further to Section 2, Article 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution which states that the Philippines adopts the generally accepted principles of International Law as part of the law of the land, the following revised guidelines in the issuance of Endorsement of Certificates are hereby prescribed.

I. OBJECTIVE

To ensure that all seafarers are properly certificated, qualified, competent and medically fit for the proper performance of functions onboard seagoing ships in accordance with the Convention.

II. COVERAGE

These guidelines shall apply to all Filipino seafarers serving onboard seagoing ships, except to those onboard:

1. warships, naval auxiliaries or other ships owned or operated by a State and engaged only on governmental non-commercial service;
2. fishing vessels;
3. pleasure yachts not engaged in trade; or
4. wooden ships of primitive build.

III. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of this Circular:

1. *Administration* refers to the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA);
2. *Authentication* refers to the Administration's attestation/validation/confirmation of certificates, licenses and documents issued by agencies and entities in compliance with the requirements of the 1978 STCW Convention and its subsequent amendments; training certificates issued by other flag states shall likewise be recognized provided they have been approved by the Maritime Training Council (MTC);

3. Convention refers to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978. Every reference to the Convention constitutes at the same time reference to the Annex;
4. Endorsement of Certificates means a valid document, by whatever name it may be known, issued by the Administration, authorizing the holder to serve as stated in this document;
5. Fishing Vessel means a vessel used for catching fish, whales, seals, walrus or other living resources of the sea;
6. Seagoing Ship means a ship other than those which navigate exclusively within Philippine waters;
7. Relevant Capacity means the same position as reflected in the endorsement;
8. Cross Entry means the recognition of training certificates issued by other flag states.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. All Filipino seafarers serving onboard seagoing ships shall be properly certificated in accordance with these guidelines.
2. Application for issuance of endorsement of certificates and/or authentication must be personally filed and secured by the applicant. The application can be filed, on behalf of the seafarer while on board, by the duly authorized representative of the company, in case of replacement of lost or damaged certificates and for purposes of repatriation (for a maximum period of 90 days).
3. Applications shall be filed at the MARINA Central Office (MCO) or at any of its authorized Maritime Regional Office (MRO).
4. Endorsement of Certificates issued for purposes of employment onboard seagoing ships shall be acceptable for use onboard ships operating in the domestic trade.
5. The medical and licensure examinations and training courses required by these guidelines shall have been taken from a government-accredited institution.
6. Certificates in support of application for Endorsement of Certificates shall be authenticated by MARINA as part of the evaluation process. However, a separate authentication of certificates/documents can be undertaken as may be necessary.
7. Retraining shall be required of a holder of training certificates who has not served on board for at least a year within five (5) years from the date of issuance of certificate.

8. Promotions on board may likewise be filed on behalf of the seafarer provided it is a position which requires an STCW endorsement.
9. The Administration reserves its authority to modify the requirements in the issuance of endorsement of certificates/authentication in accordance with the Convention in cases deemed meritorious.

V. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Deck Department

1. Minimum Requirements for Masters, Chief Mates and Officers in Charge of a Navigational Watch on Ships of 200 GRT or more 1

REQUIREMENTS	MASTER	OFFICER IN CHARGE OF A NAVIGATIONAL WATCH (Second Master/Third Mate
Age	At least 20 years old	At least 18 years old
Medical	Certified medically fit, particularly regarding good eyesight and hearing	
Examination/ License	Must have passed the equivalent licensure examination for officer in charge of navigational watch	
Training	Must have undertaken the following training courses: 1. Basic Safety Courses (BSC) 2. Radar Observer Course (ROC)/Radar Observation and Plotting (ROP) 3. Radar Simulator Course (RSC) 4. Ship Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Course (SRROC) or General Operator Course (GOC)	
Regulation	Regulation II/3	

Note: 1 As per Regulation 1/15 (Transitional Provisions) of 1978 STWC Convention, as amended, the Party may, at its discretion, replace tonnage limitations appearing on the original certificate — "200 GRT" may be replaced by "500 GT".

2. Minimum Requirements for Masters and Officers in Charge of a Navigation Watch on Ships of Less 200 GRT

a. Ships Not Engaged on Near-Coastal Voyages

REQUIREMENTS		
MASTER	OFFICER IN CHARGE OF A NAVIGATIONAL WATCH (Second Master/Third Mate	
Age	At least 20 years old	At least 18 years old

Medical	Certified medically fit, particularly regarding good eyesight and hearing
Examination/ License	Must have passed the equivalent licensure examination for officer in charge of navigational watch
Training	Must have undertaken the following training courses: 1. Basic Safety Courses (BSC) 2. Radar Observer Course (ROC)/Radar Observation and Plotting (ROP) 3. Radar Simulator Course (RSC) 4. Ship Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Course (SRROC) or General Operator Course (GOC)
Regulation	Regulation II/3

b. Ships Engaged on Near-Coastal Voyages

REQUIREMENTS

**MASTER
OFFICER IN CHARGE
OF A NAVIGATIONAL
WATCH (Second
Master/Third Mate)**

Age	At least 20 years old	At least 18 years old
Medical	Certified medically fit, particularly regarding good eyesight and hearing	
Examination/ License	Must have passed the equivalent licensure examination for officer in charge of navigational watch	
Training	Must have undertaken the following training courses: 1. Basic Safety Courses (BSC) 2. Radar Observer Course (ROC)/Radar Observation and Plotting (ROP) 3. Radar Simulator Course (RSC) 4. Ship Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Course (SRROC) or General Operator Course (GOC)	
Regulation	Regulation II/3	

3. Minimum Requirements for Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch on a Seagoing Ship of 200 GRT or More

REQUIREMENTS	BSMT/AMT/CMT GRADUATES	BASIC SEAMAN TRAINING COURSE (BSTC) (Deck Watchkeeping) GRADUATES	UNDERGRADUATE OR NON-GRADUATE OF MARITIME COURSES
Age		At least 18 years old	
Medical		Certified medically fit, particularly regarding good eyesight and hearing	
		Must have undertaken	Must have undertaken the

	the Basic Safety Courses (BSC)	following training courses:
		1. Basic Safety Course (BSC);
		2. Deck Watchkeeping Course (DWK)
Seagoing Service	1. 12 months seagoing service in the deck department which includes six months navigational watchkeeping duties;	12 months seagoing service in the deck department which includes six months navigational watchkeeping duties
	or	
	2. 12 months approved apprenticeship training	
Regulation	Regulation II/6	
Note: Must submit a copy of diploma or transcript of records from maritime school and special Order (S.O) issued by the DECS/CHED		

B. Engine Department

1. Minimum Requirements for Chief Engineer Officers, Second Engineer Officers of Ships Powered by Main Propulsion Machinery of 750 kW Propulsion Power or More

REQUIREMENTS	CHIEF ENGINEER	SECOND ENGINEER	ENGINEER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF A WATCH (Third Engineer/Fourth Engineer)
Age	At least 20 years old		
Medical	Certified medically fit, particularly regarding good eyesight and hearing		
	Must have passed the licensure examination for:		
Examination/License	Chief Engineer	Second Engineer	Third Engineer/Fourth Engineer
Training	Must have undertaken Basic Safety Courses (BSC)		
Regulation	Regulation III/2 (Ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 3,000 kW propulsion power or more		Regulation III/4
	Regulation III/3 (Ship powered by main propulsion machine of		