

**[PRC BOARD OF MARINE DECK OFFICERS BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 01, s. 1998, June 09, 1998]**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING REPUBLIC ACT NO.
8544 (FOR MARINE DECK OFFICERS)**

Pursuant to Section 34, Article VI of Republic Act No. 8544, otherwise known as the "Philippine Merchant Marine Officers Act of 1998", the following rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the said Act is hereby formulated and adopted:

**Article I
TITLE, PURPOSE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS**

SECTION 1. Title. — This Resolution shall be known and cited as the "Rules and Regulations Implementing the Philippine Merchant Marine Officers Act of 1998." (RRIPMMOA)

SECTION 2. Purpose. — This Rules and Regulations is formulated and adopted to prescribe the procedures to be observed in carrying out the provisions of R.A. No. 8544 insofar as merchant marine deck officers are concerned in order to ensure the accomplishment of the following objectives:

- a. The examination, assessment, registration and issuance of certificates of registration, competency and endorsement to merchant marine deck officers and the regulation of the profession.
- b. The supervision, control and regulation of the practice of Merchant Marine Deck profession in the Philippines: Provided, That the above objectives shall be attained through compliance with STCW '78 Convention, as amended.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — Unless otherwise provided, the following shall mean:

1. COMMISSION — shall mean the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) created under P.D. No. 223, as amended.
2. CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION — shall refer to the Commissioner of the Professional Regulation Commission.
3. BOARD — shall mean the Board of Marine Deck Officers.
4. PRACTICE OF MERCHANT MARINE PROFESSION — shall refer to the profession requiring the application of fundamental and known principles of navigation, seamanship and engineering to the peculiar condition and requirements of on board management, operation and maintenance of main propulsion and auxiliary engines,

stability and trim of the vessel and cargo handling. It shall also cover but will not be limited to the following:

- (a) The proper handling and stowage of cargoes on board ship which includes the safe carriage of passengers from port of origin to port of destination.
- (b) The safe watchkeeping of the vessel's navigation in accordance with the Rules of the Road at Sea.
- (c) The Maritime Education and Training of Cadets and other Marine Professionals.
- (d) Employment with government, provided such item or position requires the knowledge and expertise of a Merchant Marine Deck Officer.
- (e) Employment with private companies/entities as port captains, marine superintendents and those engaged in the recruitment, selection and hiring of Filipino marine deck officers and deck ratings to work on board vessels.

5. CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION — shall refer to the document issued to a Marine Deck Officer after passing the required examination and upon compliance with all the requirements prescribed by the Board and the Commission.

6. MERCHANT MARINE VESSEL — shall apply only to commercial ships, public or private, propelled by machinery, strictly engaged in maritime commerce, both seagoing and/or near-coastal trade; vessels engaged in the training of cadets for the merchant marine profession; and non-combatant vessels of the Philippine Government.

7. MERCHANT MARINE OFFICER — shall refer to marine deck or engineer officer.

8. MERCHANT MARINE DECK OFFICER — shall refer to a duly registered, certified and licensed master mariner, chief mate, officer-in-charge of navigational watch classified as Second Mate or Third Mate, and Major or Minor Patron.

9. MASTER — is a registered and certificated Master Mariner having command of a ship/vessel.

10. CHIEF MATE — is a registered and certificated marine deck officer next-in-rank to the Master who shall exercise supervision over the loading and unloading of cargo, the maintenance and upkeep of the ship/vessel and the supervision of the deck personnel of the ship/vessel and upon whom the command of the ship/vessel will devolve/fall in the event of the incapacity of the Master.

11. SECOND MATE — is a registered and certificated marine deck officer next-in-rank to the Chief Mate, in charge of a navigational watch duly designated as such, in charge of navigational equipments, the ship/vessel's medical supplies, medicines and the ship's hospital.

12. THIRD MATE — is a registered and certificated marine deck officer next-in-rank

to the second mate, in charge of a navigational watch duly designated as such, in charge of the maintenance and upkeep of the lifeboats and all other life saving and firefighting equipments.

13. MAJOR PATRON — shall refer to a marine deck officer duly registered and certificated to act as officer or captain of vessel/ship of not more than 500 GT navigating in the major coastwise trade routes within the territorial limits of the Philippines.

14. MINOR PATRON — shall refer to a marine deck officer duly registered and certificated to act as officer or captain of vessel/ship of not more than 250 GT navigating within a specified body of water in the minor coastwise trade routes in the Philippines.

15. STCW CONVENTION — means the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping of Seafarers, 1978, as amended.

16. MANAGEMENT LEVEL — refers to the level of responsibility associated with:

- (1) serving as master or chief mate, on board a seagoing ship/vessel, and
- (2) ensuring that all functions within the designated area of responsibility are properly performed.

17. OPERATIONAL LEVEL — refers to the level of responsibility associated with:

- (1) serving as officer in charge of a navigational watch, and
- (2) maintaining direct control over the performance of all functions within the designated area of responsibility in accordance with proper procedures and under the direction and supervision of an individual serving in management level for that area of responsibility.

18. CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY — a document issued by the Board to a marine deck officer after payment of the prescribed fees, certifying that the Marine Deck Officer has been found qualified to perform the functions of the level of responsibility involved on board the vessel/ship for which such officer has been examined and assessed and which shall attest to the authority/license of the deck officer to practice the Merchant Marine profession in the capacity specified therein.

19. ENDORSEMENT CERTIFICATE — refers to the document issued by the Board which attests to the issuance of Certificate of Competency to a Marine Deck Officer in accordance with and upon compliance of all the relevant requirements of the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.

20. PARTY — means a State for which the Convention has entered into force.

21. ADMINISTRATION — means the Government of the Party whose flag the ship is entitled to fly.

22. CERTIFICATE — a document, by whatever name it may be known, issued by or

under the authority of the national administration attesting or certifying to the authority of the marine deck officer named therein to serve in the capacity as stated in the document in accordance with national regulations.

23. CERTIFICATED — refers to the condition or status of a marine deck officer who has been issued a valid certificate of registration and a valid certificate of competency.

24. SEAGOING SHIP/VESSEL — means a ship/vessel other than those which navigate exclusively in inland waters or in waters within, or closely adjacent to, sheltered waters or areas where port regulations apply.

25. SYLLABUS — refers to a table of specifications containing the contents systematically arranged according to topics and subtopics of the subjects in accordance with which the preparation of test questions for the licensure examination shall be strictly within the scope of the syllabus for each subject.

26. LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR MARINE DECK OFFICERS — refers to the written and practical examinations given by the Board to measure the competence of applicants for registration as marine deck officers on the functions of the levels of responsibility required by law and the STCW Convention for such officer and which must be taken and passed by the applicants to be registered as such marine deck officer.

27. REMOVAL EXAMINATION — is an examination that an examinee must take in the subject or subjects where he obtained a grade lower than sixty percent (60%) in any given licensure examination.

28. INTEGRATION — means the unification or consolidation of the members of the different organizations of marine deck officers into one national organization for recognition by the Board of Marine Deck Officers and the Commission.

29. NEAR COASTAL VOYAGE — shall refer to a short international voyage which, by reciprocal agreements of countries involved, is considered or treated as coastwise voyage, which voyage shall not extend beyond the specified trade routes on which the vessel navigates and trades.

30. SEA-GOING SERVICE — shall refer to the actual service on board a ship/vessel relevant to the issued Certificate or other qualification.

31. WALK-IN EXAMINATION — shall refer to the computer-based system of examination made available at a designated test center conducted for any rank and a definite number of examinees and at any given time as may be determined by the Board and approved by the Commission.

32. CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR MARINE DECK OFFICERS — a set of rules and regulations governing the conduct and deportment of a marine deck officer in the practice of his profession.

33. SPECIAL DISPENSATION — shall refer to an authorization or recognition issued under certain conditions by the Board to a foreigner holding a Certificate of Competency issued by his national administration in accordance with the

requirements of the STCW Convention, as amended, to serve on board a Philippine registered vessel engaged in international trade.

34. TRAINING RECORD BOOK — an official record indicating the activities and performance of a deck cadet or watchkeeping deck officer or other officers on sea-going vessel/ship under the supervision of the Master Officer or a qualified and certificated Deck Officer on board the ship in which the approved seagoing service is performed.

Article II

OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BOARD

SECTION 4. Official Seal of the Board of Marine Deck Officers. — The seal of the Board of Marine Deck Officers shall be circular in form consisting of two concentric circles, the outer circle being 40 mm. in diameter and the inner circle being 20 mm. in diameter. Inside the 10 mm. circular band shall be inscribed the name of the Board, the words equally spread within the full circumference of the band. At the center of the inner circle shall be engraved a silhouette of a two-masted motorship superimposed on two crossed old-fashioned ship anchor.

Article III

COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

SECTION 5. Composition. — The Board of Marine Deck Officers shall be composed of a Chairman and four (4) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of three (3) recommendees for each position recommended by the Commission from a list of five (5) nominees for each position chosen and ranked by the integrated and accredited association of Marine Deck Officers.

SECTION 6. Board, a Collegial Body. — The Chairman and members of the Board shall act as a collegial body in matters involving the exercise of its powers and functions as well as the implementation of its policies. Official action on such matters by the Board shall be effective only when approved by the Commission.

SECTION 7. Meetings. — The Board shall hold regular meetings at least twice a month within the Commission's premises or in such other places as may be agreed upon by the Board and approved by the Commission. Special meetings as often as may be necessary may be called by the Chairman or any three members.

The Chairman shall preside over the meetings of the Board. The senior member shall act as Presiding Officer in the absence or incapacity of the Chairman.

Article IV

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

SECTION 8. Duties and Functions of the Chairman of the Board. — The Chairman shall be the head of the Board, and as such, he shall assign the subjects for examination to the members of the Board. The Chairman shall assign the members to conduct investigation of administrative cases and to undertake/exercise the visitorial powers of the Board. He shall be responsible for the assignment of duties and responsibilities to the members and for the supervision and management of their work. The Chairman shall be the official spokesman of the Board in the