

[MIA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 129, July 15, 1998]

**RULES ON THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES AND
ENDORSEMENTS FOR NEW ENTRANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR
SEAFARERS (STCW), 1978, AS AMENDED**

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), 1978, through the Instrument of Accession dated 11 January 1984, and pursuant further to Section 2, Article II 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, and Executive Order No. 396 designating the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as the lead agency in the Implementation of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended, the following rules in the issuance of Certificates and Endorsements are hereby prescribed:

**I
Objective**

To ensure that all Philippine 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 rules shall apply to all Philippine seafarers serving onboard seagoing ships who have commenced approved seagoing service, an approved education and training programme or an approved training course on or after 01 June 1998 or School Year 1998-1999, except 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.

These rules shall also apply to those existing Philippine seafarers applying for the

renewal or revalidation or replacement of lost/damaged Certificates and Endorsements under the 1995 amendments.

III

Definition of Terms

For purposes of this Circular:

1. **Administration** refers to the MARINA pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 395.
2. **Convention** refers to the International Convention of Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended. Reference to the Convention constitutes at the same time, reference to the Annex and the STCW Code.
3. **New Entrants** refer to all Philippine seafarers onboard seagoing ships who commenced approved seagoing service, an approved education and training programme or an approved training course on or after 01 June 1998 or School Year 1998-1999.
4. **Existing Seafarers** refer to all Philippine seafarers serving onboard seagoing ships who had commenced approved seagoing service, an approved education and training programme or an approved training course prior to 01 June 1998.
5. **Certificate** refers to the STCW Certificate issued by the Administration authorizing the holder to serve as stated in this document.
6. **Fishing Vessel** means a vessel used for catching fish, whales, seals, wairus or other living resources of the sea.
7. **Seagoing Ship** means a ship 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.
8. **Management Level** means the level of responsibility associated with:
 - Serving as master, chief mate, chief engineer or second engineer officer onboard a seagoing ship; and
 - ensuring that all functions within the designated area of responsibility are properly performed.
9. **Operational Level** means the responsibility associated with:
 - serving as officer-in-charge of a navigational watch or as designated duty engineer for periodically unmanned machinery spaces or as radio operator onboard a seagoing ship; and
 - maintaining direct control over the performance of all functions within the designated area of responsibility in accordance with proper procedures and under the direction of an individual serving in the management level for that area of responsibility.

10. **Support Level** means the level of responsibility associated with performing assigned tasks, duties, and responsibilities onboard a seagoing ship under the direction of an individual serving in the operational or management level.

IV

General Principles and Policies

1. All Philippine seafarers serving onboard seagoing ships shall be properly certificated in accordance with this Circular.
2. Certificates issued for masters and officers shall be endorsed by the Administration in a form prescribed under the Convention.
3. All existing seafarers with Certificates and Endorsements issued under the 1995 Amendments are deemed to have satisfied the qualification requirements set forth herein.
4. Application for issuance of Certificates and Endorsements and other documents shall be personally filed by the applicant. The application may, however, be filed, on behalf of the seafarer, by the duly authorized representative of the company in cases of renewal, replacement of lost or damaged Certificates, or promotion onboard.
5. Applications shall be filed at the MARINA Central Office (MCO) or at any of its authorized Maritime Regional Offices (MROs).
6. Certificates under Chapters IV (Radiocommunication and Radio Personnel), or V (Special Training Requirements for Personnel on Certain Types of Ships, or VI (Emergency, Occupational Safety, Medical Care and Survival Functions) may be issued together with Certificates under Chapters II (Master and Deck Department) or III (Engine Department) of the Convention, or issued separately as appropriate.
7. The Administration hereby adopts the following procedural framework* in the issuance of Certificates and Endorsements.

V

Mandatory Minimum Qualification Requirements for Certification

A. Master and Deck Department

1. Officers in Charge of a Navigational Watch on ships of 500 gross tonnage or more.

Age	Not less than 18 years old
Medical	Medically fit particularly good eyesight and hearing
Education	Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation (BSMT)
Seagoing Service	36 months approved seagoing service in the deck department which includes six months bridge

	watchkeeping duties; or 12 months approved apprenticeship/shipboard training documented in an approved Training Record Book which includes six months bridge watchkeeping duties.
Examination/License	Must have passed the licensure examination Third Mate Second Mate
Regulation	II/1

2. Masters and Chief Mates on ships of 3,000 gross tonnage or more

Age	Not less than 20 years old	
Medical	Medically fit particularly good eyesight and hearing	
Education	Graduate of Management Level Course	
Seagoing Service	Master	Chief Mate
	36 months as officer in charge of a navigational watch; or 12 months as chief mate and 12 months as officer in charge of a navigational watch.	12 months as officer in charge of a navigational watch.
Examination/License	Must have passed the licensure examination Master	
	Master	Chief Mate
Regulation	II/2, para 1 & 2	

3. Masters and Chief Mates on ships between 500 and 3000 gross tonnage.

Age	Not less than 20 years old	
Medical	Medically fit particularly good eyesight and hearing	
Education	Graduate of Management Level Course	
Seagoing Service	Master	Chief Mate
	36 months as officer in charge of a navigational watch; or 12 months as chief mate and 12 months as officer in charge of a navigational watch.	36 months approved seagoing service in the deck department which includes six months bridge watchkeeping duties on board ships of 500 gross tonnage or more; or 12 months approved apprenticeship/shipboard training on board ships of 500 gross tonnage or more documented in an approved Training Record Book which

		includes six months keeping duties. bridge watchkeeping duties
Examination/License	Must have passed the licensure examination Master	
Regulation	Master II/2, para 3 & 4	Chief Mate

4. Officers in Charge of a Navigational Watch on Ships of Less than 500 Gross Tonnage Not Engaged on Near-Coastal Voyages

Age	Not less than 18 years old	
Medical	Medically fit particularly good eyesight and hearing	
Education	Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation (BSMT)	
Seagoing Service	36 months approved seagoing service in the deck department which includes six months bridge watchkeeping duties; or 12 months approved apprenticeship/ shipboard training documented in an approved Training Record Book which includes six months bridge watch keeping duties	
Examination/License	Must have passed the licensure examination	
Regulation	Third Mate II/3, para 1	Second Mate

5. Masters on Ships of less than 500 gross tonnage not engaged on near-coastal voyages.

Age	Not less than 20 years old	
Medical	Medically fit particularly good eyesight and hearing	
Education	Graduate of Management Level Course	
Seagoing Service	36 months as officer in charge of a navigational watch; or 12 months as chief mate and 12 months as officer in charge of a navigational watch	
Examination/License	Must have passed the licensure examination	
Regulation	Master II/3, para 2	

6. Officers in charge of a navigational watch on seagoing ships of less than 500 gross