

## [ MIA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 131, July 15, 1998 ]

### **RULES ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF SEAFARERS ON BOARD PHILIPPINE REGISTERED SHIPS PLYING IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS**

In order to effectively implement Section 12 (a) of Executive Order No. 125, as amended, Executive Order No. 396 and to fully comply with the Philippines' commitments to the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), as amended and pursuant further to Presidential Decree Nos. 474 and 760/866/1711 and Executive Order No. 438, the following guidelines shall prescribe the responsibilities of shipping companies in the deployment of seafarers onboard Philippine-registered seagoing ships plying in international waters.

#### **I Objective**

This Circular shall prescribe the guidelines by which to ensure compliance with Regulation 1/14 of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, by all shipping companies operating Philippine-registered seagoing ships plying in international waters.

#### **II Coverage**

This Circular shall apply to all shipping companies operating Philippine-registered seagoing ships engaged in international trade.

#### **III Definition of Terms**

For purposes of this Circular:

1. **Administration** refers to the Maritime Industry Authority.
2. **Ship** refers to Philippine-registered seagoing ships engaged in international trade.
3. **Convention** refers to the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) Convention, as amended.
4. **Philippine Merchant Marine Rules and Regulations (PMMRR)** means the latest PMMRR and its amendment.
5. **Safe Manning** — is the minimum number of officers and ratings onboard a ship

who can safely operate the ship from port to port and as prescribed under the PMMRR.

#### **IV**

#### **General Provisions**

1. A company covered by this Circular shall be primarily responsible for ensuring that only competent and properly certificated seafarers are deployed onboard its ships.
2. The company shall ensure that all necessary measures are undertaken to enable each crew member to make knowledgeable and informed contribution to the safe operation of the ship.
3. The company shall ensure that the master, chief engineer and watchkeeping personnel observe the principle that a safe watch is maintained at all times.
4. The company shall ensure that the watchkeeping arrangements are adequate for maintaining a safe navigational/engineering watch.
5. All ships shall be completely manned by Filipino seafarers. No foreign seafarers shall be employed onboard, unless approved by the Administration.
6. Copies of national maritime regulations shall be placed onboard Philippine-flagged ships.

#### **V**

#### **Company Responsibilities**

The company shall ensure that:

##### **A. AS TO CREW CERTIFICATION**

1. All seafarers required to be certificated in accordance with the Convention and as established by the Administration and who are employed onboard the company' ships shall at all times hold appropriate and valid certificates.

##### **B. AS TO CREW FAMILIARIZATION**

1. A seafarer who is newly employed onboard the ship is given sufficient time prior to assuming the assigned tasks, to become familiar with the shipboard equipment, operating procedures and other arrangements relevant to his work;
2. The needed information, manuals and reference materials are available onboard and in a language which the seafarers understand;
3. The captain is made aware of his duties to ensure that all the seafarers in the ship fully understand the scope of their work; and
4. The officers and crew are able to coordinate effectively their activities in an emergency situation and in performing functions vital to safety and to the prevention or mitigation of pollution.