



13 August 2003

**FLAG STATE ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY NO. 46**  
Series of 2003

**SUBJECT : REVISED CLASS REQUIREMENT FOR PHILIPPINE-REGISTERED DOMESTIC SHIPS**

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As approved by the MARINA Board of Directors during its Special Board Meeting on 11 August 2003, notice is hereby given to all concerned that the existing policy on the mandatory requirement for Philippine-registered domestic ships to be classed, pursuant to MARINA M.C No. 124, as amended, shall be revised to effect the following:

**I. Expanded Coverage of Ships Required To Be Classed:**

**All passenger carrying ships, 3 GT and above**, regardless of hull material, whether existing or to be required or to be registered under the Philippine flag, shall be required to be classed by government-recognized/ accredited classification societies.

**II. Guidelines and Requirements for Implementation:**

1. Convention-sized passenger-carrying ships (e.g. 500 GT and over), which are not yet classed, shall immediately applied for classification (under existing rules for such) with any of the government-recognized/accredited classification societies.
2. Non-convention sized steel-hulled passenger carrying ships covered by the herein requirement, which are not yet classed, shall likewise be immediately be applied for classification (under existing rules for such) with any of the government recognized accredited classification societies.
3. In classing non-convention sized wooden-hulled passenger-carrying covered by the herein requirement, the MARINA shall prescribe and issue the necessary standards on key elements relevant to such vessel type, as outlined hereunder:
  - General Provisions (Coverage, Definitions)
  - Materials and Workmanship

- Basis for calculations and scantlings
- Keelson, Keel and Frames
- Outside Plankings
- Deckhouse/Superstructure/Mast and Riggings
- Miscellaneous (Outrigger & Floaters, etc.)
- Machineries (Main Engine, Auxiliaries, Dumping/Drainage, Machinery Foundations, Chains/Anchors, Steering/Tiller, Hatch Coaming, Ventilator)]
- Underwater appendages

On the basis of such administration-prescribed standards, government-recognized/accredited classification societies shall come up with and adopt the corresponding Class Rules to be used, and submit such for MARINA's review, evaluation and approval;

4. Only upon approval by the MARINA of them submitted Class Rules and issuance of the Corresponding Certificate of Authority to Class, shall the government recognized/accredited classification societies be authorized to class non-convention sized wooden-hulled passenger-carrying ships.
5. The government-recognized/ accredited classification societies are enjoined to adopt reasonable fees and charges for small to medium-sized shipowners/operators, with the Administration subsequently prescribing caps for such fees and charges after due consultation/discussion with the concerned recognized/accredited organization.
6. The Administration shall undertake verification and monitoring of activities in classing of ships provide herein, to ensure the adequacy of work performed by the concerned recognized/accredited organizations authorized to act in its behalf.

### III. Timetables for Compliance:

1. For owners/operators of **all convention sized, passenger-carrying ships** covered under Sec.1 hereof, they are given until **30 September 2003** to initiate compliance with the herein prescribed class requirement, and submit proof of such initiation on or before such date.
2. For owners/operators of all **steel-hulled, non-convention sized, passenger-carrying ships** covered under Sec. I hereof, they are given until **30 October 2003** to initiate compliance with the herein prescribe class requirement, and submit proof of such initiation on or before such date.

3. For owners/operators of all **wooden-hulled, non-convention sized, passenger-carrying ships** covered under Sec. I hereof, they are given until **30 December 2003** to initiate compliance with the herein prescribed class requirement, and submit proof such initiation on or before such date.

**IV. Sanctions and Penalties:**

1. Ships covered which fail to submit to the Franchising Office the certificate/ proof of being in the process of complying with the requirement, or having been classed, after the prescribed due dates, shall be immediately ordered to cease and desist from operating, and their authority to operate (SP,PA, CPC) shall be suspended and/ or revoked, after due process.
2. Ships covered found and proven to be operating without having complied with the class requirement, as well as other violation related to the implementation of and compliance with the class requirement shall be imposed the prescribed fines/ penalties under M.C. No. 120, or it amendments, other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

**V. Amendment of existing Circulars:**

The necessary amendment of the relevant MARINA Memorandum Circulars shall be submitted to the MARINA Board, after due consultation with the affected sectors.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

**(Sgd.) OSCAR M. SEVILLA**  
Administrator