



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

28 August 2020

MARINA ADVISORY

NO. 2020-66

SERIES OF 2020

TO : ALL SEAFARERS, LICENSED MANNING AGENCIES (LMAs) / SHIPPING COMPANIES, SHIP OWNERS AND OPERATORS, STAKEHOLDERS AND ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF STCW CERTIFICATES AS A TEMPORARY CONTINGENCY MEASURE AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The actions taken worldwide and within Philippines, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, has severely affected the conduct of trainings, revalidation of certificates, and the ship to shore interactions including the crew changes. For that reason, the Maritime Industry Authority realized the need for a longer extension of validity of the STCW certificates of Filipino seafarers to gain continued employment opportunities.

To alleviate the plight of the Filipino seafarer, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) adopts IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.5/Rev.1 dated 02 April 2020 which encourages the issuing Administration and the Port State Control authorities to take a pragmatic and practical approach with regard to the extension of the validity of seafarer's certificates and endorsement, as strictly necessary, in accordance with the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended.

THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that all STCW certificates issued by the MARINA which are expiring **between 01 September 2020 to 31 December 2020 (dates inclusive)** shall be extended for a period of **one (1) year** from the date of expiry of the certificate without need to file for an application at the MARINA. **This applies to all STCW certificates of all Filipino seafarers who are both onboard or ashore at the time of the expiry of their certificates and who are compliant with the following provisions of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended:**

1. Completed approved seagoing service performing duties appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
 - a. Twelve (12) months in total during the last 5 years prior to revalidation; OR
 - b. Three (3) months in total during the last 6 months immediately prior to revalidating;
2. For Certificate of Proficiency (COP) in tanker courses, the seafarer must have completed approved seagoing service performing the duties appropriate to the tanker certificate held, for a period of at least 3 months in total during the preceding 5 years;
3. Meet the standards of medical fitness specified in Section A-I/9 of the STCW Code.

FURTHER, all seafarers are encouraged to apply for revalidation of their Certificate of Competency (COC) and COP after completing their online/offline courses, as applicable to their certificate to be revalidated at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the standard requirements for revalidation. In which case, the 5 year validity date shall be reckoned from the original expiration date of the previous certificate.

FURTHERMORE, the provisions of MARINA Advisory No. 2020-64, Series of 2020 and all other issuances which are contrary to this Advisory are hereby rescinded.

The concerned licensed manning agencies and shipping companies are required to ensure that their crew are compliant with the above-mentioned STCW requirements, and are hereby directed to submit to MARINA the list of their crewmember/s whose validity of STCW certificate/s have been extended pursuant to this Advisory. An electronic copy of the said information shall be submitted via e-mail at certificate_extension@mail.marina.gov.ph following the attached template in Annex A.

This Advisory shall take effect immediately.


VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator

