



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

OCT 21 2025¹

MARINA Advisory
No. 2025-42
Series of 2025

TO : ALL SHIPOWNERS, MARINA ACCREDITED CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES (MACS) AND ALL OTHER MARITIME ENTITIES/PARTIES CONCERNED

SUBJECT : REITERATION AND ISSUANCE OF GUIDELINES FOR THE UNIFORM IMPLEMENTATION OF MARINA CIRCULAR NO. MS-2023-02

Pursuant to Section 22 of Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and to ensure the uniform and effective implementation of MARINA Circular (MC) No. MS-2023-02, Series of 2023, all concerned entities are hereby advised to adhere to the rules and guidelines on the classification of ships engaged in the domestic trade and the issuance of the corresponding Certificate of Classification¹, as herein provided:

I. For the purpose of this Advisory, the following additional terms are hereby adopted to supplement Sec. IV (Definition of Terms) of MC No. MS-2023-02:

1. A "Full-term" certificate shall be issued upon satisfactory completion of the initial or renewal survey, and upon compliance with all applicable classification requirements, including the correction of any deficiencies or overdue recommendations/conditions of class. The full-term certificate shall remain valid until the next periodical/renewal survey is due.
2. An "Interim" certificate shall only be issued by the MACS upon satisfactory completion of the required survey, and provided that all overdue surveys and recommendations/conditions of class have been rectified. The interim certificate allows the ship to trade while the full-term certificate is being prepared, shall only be issued once, and shall normally be valid for no longer than six (6) months from the date of issue.
3. A "Conditional or Short-term" certificate is a certificate with the appropriate expiry dates that is issued by the attending surveyor when deficiencies/defects exist which cannot be corrected in the port of survey. A conditional certificate is valid only for a period long enough to allow the ship to proceed to the port where the correction will be made but not to exceed ninety (90) days from the issuance.

¹ Can interchangeably called as "Classification Certificate" or herein called as "Certificate"



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4. A "Minor Deficiency/Defect" refers to an observed situation that does not prevent the ship from proceeding to sea and does not pose immediate danger to the ship, persons on board, or the environment, within the timeframe given for its rectification.
5. A "Major Deficiency/Defect" is an identified deficiency/defect that endangers the safety of persons onboard, the stability or integrity of the vessel, its cargo or is likely to cause pollution.

II. Guidelines supplementary to MS No. 2023-02 concerning the issuance, validity, and maintenance of vessel Certificates of Classification by MACS:

A. General Guidance:

1. When major deficiencies or defects are identified during any survey (initial, renewal, annual, intermediate, periodical, or other additional surveys) and cannot be permanently repaired or rectified in the port where the survey is conducted, the issuance or endorsement of a certificate should not be made, except under the conditions provided below.

B. Major Deficiencies/Defects Identified During Initial or Renewal Survey

2. Issuance of a Conditional or Short-Term Certificate
 - 2.1 A Conditional or Short-Term Certificate may be issued by the MACS to allow the vessel to proceed to a port where permanent repairs can be undertaken, only after the attending MACS Surveyor has verified and confirmed that the major deficiency or defect has been reduced to a minor or non-critical condition sufficient to ensure the vessel's safe operation while proceeding to the designated repair port.
 - 2.2 The vessel owner or operator is advised to implement appropriate temporary corrective measures and to submit to the MACS a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) indicating the schedule and manner by which the permanent rectification will be carried out.
 - 2.3 The MACS should review and evaluate the CAP and provide detailed recommendations, conditions, or limitations as may be necessary to ensure the continued safe operation of the vessel until the permanent repairs or rectifications are completed.
 - 2.4 The Conditional or Short-Term Certificate should have a validity period not exceeding ninety (90) days from the date of issuance, unless a shorter period is considered necessary by the MACS based on the nature and severity of the deficiencies.



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3. Specific Guidance Based on the Type of Survey

a. Initial or Renewal Survey

- .1 A Conditional or Short-Term Certificate may be issued under the same conditions to allow the vessel to proceed to a repair port.
- .2 Upon satisfactory completion and verification of permanent rectification, the Conditional or Short-Term Certificate should be withdrawn and a Full-Term Certificate issued.
- .3 The validity of the newly issued Full-Term Certificate should be reckoned either from the original expiry date of the previous certificate or from the date of completion of the initial or renewal survey during which the deficiencies were first identified, to preserve the continuity and integrity of the vessel's survey cycle.

b. Annual, Intermediate, Periodical, or Additional Survey

- .1 A Conditional or Short-Term Certificate may likewise be issued under similar conditions.
- .2 In such cases, the existing Full-Term Certificate should not be endorsed and is considered cancelled or revoked upon the issuance of the Conditional or Short-Term Certificate.
- .3 Upon verification of permanent rectification, the Conditional or Short-Term Certificate should be withdrawn, and a new Full-Term Certificate issued covering the unexpired term of the previous Full-Term Certificate, to ensure that the established periodic intervals of class surveys are maintained.

4. Non-compliance

If the identified deficiencies or defects are not rectified within the period prescribed in the Conditional or Short-Term Certificate, no further issuance of renewal of such certificate should be allowed. The vessel may be subject to suspension or withdrawal of its class certificates, as may be deemed appropriate by MARINA.

C. Minor Deficiencies/Defects Identified During Surveys

5. If minor deficiencies or defects are identified and cannot be rectified at the time of port of survey, MACS may issue an Outstanding Recommendation, Observation, or Condition of Class specifying:



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- i. The nature and details of the deficiency or defect;
- ii. Any temporary measures required to maintain safe operation; and
- iii. The due date or time limit for permanent rectification.

The issuance of an Outstanding Recommendation, Observation, or Condition of Class shall allow the vessel to proceed to sea and operate within prescribed limitations, or sail to another port where permanent rectification can be carried out, provided such condition does not compromise the vessel's seaworthiness, safety, or pollution prevention standards.

6. The vessel owner or operator shall rectify all outstanding minor deficiencies or defects within the assigned period and report completion to MACS for verification and closure.
7. Failure to rectify the noted deficiencies within the prescribed timeframe may result in the suspension of the Certificate of Classification.

III. Documentation and Reporting Requirements

8. All Certificates of Classification- whether Full-Term, Interim, or Conditional/Short-Term – shall be supported by a Class Survey Status Report indicating the related survey arrangements, outstanding recommendations, observations, findings, and any conditions of class.
 - a. Each Conditional or Short-Term Certificate shall:
 - i. Be clearly marked "Conditional" or "Short-Term".
 - ii. Have attached a Class Survey Status Report noting all deficiencies, corrective actions required, and assigned due dates.
 - b. MACS shall promptly notify MARINA of any vessel found with major deficiencies or serious safety-related issues, pursuant to Section XII.4 of MARINA Circular No. MS-2020-01, and shall submit periodic reports, notifications, or updates on the compliance status of vessels operating under Conditional Certificates.
 - c. When the class of a vessel has been suspended for a period of six (6) months, the same shall be withdrawn. A longer suspension period may be allowed when the vessel is not trading, such as in cases of lay-up, pending disposition due to casualty, or while awaiting attendance for reinstatement.
 - d. The MACS shall notify the MARINA regarding of any vessel whose Certificate of Classification is subject to suspension or withdrawal and shall publish this information on its website.



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9. All reports and notifications to the MARINA in compliance to this Advisory and MC No. MS-2023-02 shall be submitted to the Regional Office where the vessel is homeported, copy furnished the Office of the Administrator and the Maritime Safety Service, Central Office.

Submission may be made either in person at the concerned MARINA Office or through via email at the following addresses:

- MARINA Regional Office : [mro\(number\)@marina.gov.ph](mailto:mro(number)@marina.gov.ph)
- Maritime Safety Service : mss@marina.gov.ph
- Office of the Administrator : oadm@marina.gov.ph

10. All MACS are hereby directed to observe and apply the provisions of this Advisory in the development and implementation of their respective certification guidelines as required under Sec. VIII.10 of MC No. MS-2023-02 and to act on all pending applications for Class Surveys and the issuance of corresponding certificates, as warranted.

11. These provisions are adopted in consideration of instances not expressly covered under MARINA Circular No. MS 2023-02 and shall be applied in harmony therewith. In case of conflict, the provisions of the said Circular shall prevail.

12. All MARINA Regional Offices shall strictly implement and monitor adherence to this issuance.

For strict compliance.


SONIA B. MALALUAN
Administrator

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