



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

19 MAR 2026

MARINA ADVISORY NO.: 2026-13

**TO : ALL SEAFARERS, MANNING / SHIPPING COMPANIES, SHIPOWNERS AND OPERATORS, AND ALL CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE ISSUED STCW CERTIFICATES OF SEAFARERS ONBOARD SHIPS AFFECTED BY THE ESCALATING MIDDLE EAST CRISIS**

In view of the escalating security situation in the Middle East which has significantly affected normal crew change operations, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) hereby issues this Advisory for the information and guidance of all concerned.

Taking a pragmatic and practical approach in addressing the situation faced by Filipino seafarers who are unable to disembark from their vessel due to the prevailing crisis in the region, seafarers whose Certificates of Competency (COC) and/or Certificates of Proficiency (COP), issued by the MARINA, **have expired OR will expire by 30 June 2026 while they are onboard ships operating in or affected by the Middle East crisis and who are unable to disembark as scheduled** may be granted an **extension of three (3) months from the date of expiry** of the respective certificates. This extension shall apply only to seafarers who remain onboard their vessels and whose disembarkation has been prevented or delayed due to the prevailing security situation in the region.

In view of the above, Shipping Companies, Shipowners, and Licensed Manning Agencies (LMAs) are directed to ensure that appropriate documentation and records are submitted to this Administration to substantiate that the concerned seafarer remained onboard beyond the scheduled period or was stranded after disembarkation due to the said circumstances.

This Advisory is issued to ensure the continued safe manning of ships while taking into consideration the exceptional circumstances affecting Filipino seafarers deployed in the region.

For information and guidance of all concerned.

  
**SONIA B. MALALUAN**  
Administrator