REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

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MARINA ADVISORY NO. 2026-36
Series of 2026

TO : ALL SHIPOWNERS, SHIP OPERATORS, MASTERS, SHIPPING COMPANIES, PORT OPERATORS, AND OTHER MARITIME STAKEHOLDERS

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON THE CLASSIFICATION STATUS AND CONTINUED OPERATION OF VESSELS AFFECTED BY THE SUSPENSION OF CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION OF MARINA-ACCREDITED CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES

In the interest of the service, and for the continuance of compliance to MARINA Circular (MC) No. MS-2023-02[1] mandating the requirement of a Certificate of Classification[2] to covered ships, it is hereby directed that, in the event of suspension of the Certificate of Accreditation (COA) of any MARINA-Accredited Classification Society (MACS) pursuant to MC No. MS-2020-01[3], all concerned parties are hereby directed to strictly comply with the following guidelines:

I. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purpose of this Advisory, the following terms are hereby defined:

1. **Affected Vessels** refer to all Philippine-flagged ships currently classed under, or with pending applications before, an Affected MACS, including but not limited to those requiring annual endorsements, renewal surveys, class entries, newbuilding supervision, or transfer of class as prescribed under MC No. MS-2020-01 during the period of suspension of the Affected MACS's COA. These are vessels whose Certificate of Classification, classification status, or continued operational authority is directly affected by the invalidation of the Affected MACS' COA.

2. **Certificate of Extension of Vessel Classification (CEVC)** refers to a temporary administrative authority issued by the Administration to an affected vessel. This document serves solely as an interim authorization permitting continued vessel operation pending completion of the required verification surveys or the final transfer of class. It does not replace the vessel's

[1] MARINA Circular No. MS-2023-02 entitled *"Rules and Regulations for the Classification Requirements for Philippine-Registered Ships Engaged in the Domestic Trade."*

[2] Can be interchangeably called as Classification Certificate per Section IV.3 of the MARINA Circular No. MS-2023-02.

[3] MARINA Circular No. MS-2020-01 entitled *"Revised Rules on the Accreditation of Classification Societies and Entities for the Purpose of Classification of Ships in the Domestic Trade."*

Certificate of Classification and shall not be interpreted as constituting a class survey.

3. **Affected MACS** refers to any MARINA-Accredited Classification Society (MACS) that is temporarily or permanently barred from performing classification services due to the suspension of its COA under MC No. MS-2020-01.

II. IMMEDIATE RESTRICTION, AND CONTINUOUS RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AFFECTED MACS

1. **MACS with suspended COA** is strictly prohibited for the entire duration of its suspension from conducting any classification services, and shall not be recognized as MACS for the time being. However, they shall remain accountable for all certificates issued prior to suspension.

2. Any class certificate, survey report, endorsement, closure, or downgrading of recommendation of class, extension, or any related document issued, endorsed, or otherwise processed by the Affected MACS upon invalidation of its COA shall be deemed unauthorized and without legal effect, and shall not be recognized by the Administration for any purpose, notwithstanding any retroactive, predated, or backdated effect reflected therein.

3. Within **seven (7) calendar days** from the suspension or invalidation of its COA, the Affected MACS shall submit to the Administration a comprehensive and updated list of all affected vessels, which shall include:

   3.1 Vessels to be subjected for annual endorsement of Certificate of Classification, with their endorsement period/window and due date;
   3.2 Vessels to be subjected for renewal of Certificate of Classification, with their expiry;
   3.3 Vessels to be subjected for verification survey for closure of outstanding recommendation of class or under Conditional/ Short-term Certificate;
   3.4 Vessels with pending application (identify if already surveyed or not):

      a. Annual Survey;
      b. Renewal Survey;
      c. Class Entry;

         i. New Building; and
         ii. Transfer of Class.

4. The Affected MACS is strictly directed to continuously coordinate with the Administration, the affected company, and the receiving or gaining MACS to ensure the uninterrupted compliance of the affected vessels with

applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. It shall likewise promptly respond to all communications and provide, facilitate, or endorse the issuance of all documents, records, certifications, and other information necessary to support the transfer process and ensure compliance with this Advisory.

a. The suspension of its COA shall not be construed as a complete discharge or termination of its responsibilities and obligations with respect to vessels previously accepted under its registry prior to the effectivity of the suspension. Such responsibilities shall continue until the orderly transfer of oversight functions has been completed, or until otherwise directed by the Administration.

b. It shall make available all relevant technical records and other necessary documents required for verification, evaluation, transfer of records, or continued compliance of the vessel within seven (7) calendar days upon request by the receiving classification society, shipowner, or the Administration.

5. An affected MACS shall provide technical assistance when expressly required by the Administration.

5.1 Such assistance shall be limited to the following:

a. Clarification of past survey findings;
b. Explanation of previously issued recommendations and conditions of class;
c. Provision of historical classification records; and
d. Support in the preparation of transfer-of-class or MARINA inspection documentation.

5.2 Any technical opinion, interpretation, assessment, or statement issued by an Affected MACS shall be advisory in nature only and shall neither constitute a regulatory determination nor be accepted as conclusive evidence of compliance with MARINA laws, rules, and regulations. All regulatory findings, decisions, approvals, and determinations shall remain the sole and exclusive authority of the Administration.

6. **Any unjustified discontinuance, neglect, or abandonment** of its functions and responsibilities as an accredited MACS **may constitute sufficient ground for the withdrawal of its COA and/or administrative fines and legal sanctions**.

III. CONTINUED OPERATION OF VESSELS AND RECOGNITION OF VALIDITY OF EXISTING CERTIFICATE OF CLASSIFICATION

1. During the period of suspension or invalidation, only the Certificate of Classification is affected.

2. Affected vessels may be allowed to continue operations, subject to compliance with the provisions of this Advisory.

3. Valid Certificate of Classification previously issued by the Affected MACS shall remain to be valid until expiry date, provided that the vessel's latest Class Survey Status Report confirms that there are:

   3.1 No overdue surveys (e.g., annual endorsement); and
   3.2 No overdue recommendations/ conditions of class.

4. All ships whose Certificate of Classification are expiring/ due for survey during the suspension/ invalidation period shall be subjected to either of the following:

   4.1 May apply for issuance of Certificate of Extension of Vessel Classification (CEVC) depending on its application based on **"Annex A"**; or
   4.2 Transfer to a Classification Society with a valid COA under MC No. MS-2020-01.

      a. In the event a shipowner or operator elects to permanently transition an affected vessel to a gaining classification society maintaining a valid COA or when such transfer becomes mandatory due to the invalidation of the COA of its current Affected MACS, the gaining MACS shall assume the full responsibility for supervising the completion of all overdue surveys, outstanding recommendations, and conditions of class, notwithstanding any age-based restrictions or entry limitations provided under Section IX.8 of MC No. MS-2023-02.

      b. However, existing vessels applying for new entry to an Affected MACS that have not yet been issued with classification certificate, whether still under the initial evaluation process or already surveyed, shall not be eligible for the exemption from the age restriction provided under Section III.4.2.a above. Consequently, all overdue surveys, outstanding recommendations, and Conditions of Class (COC) shall be satisfactorily closed out in accordance with Section IX.8 of MC No. MS-2023-02 prior to the issuance of any Certificate of Extension of Vessel Classification (CEVC) or classification endorsement.

c. The exemption from the age restriction granted under Section III.4.2.a above is strictly conditional. The gaining MACS shall not issue a full-term Certificate of Classification, until the following conditions are fully satisfied:

i. Conduct of a comprehensive Class Entry Survey covering the full scope of all overdue annual, intermediate, or renewal survey items; and

ii. All outstanding recommendations, conditions of class, and deficiencies logged by the previous MACS, as well as those identified during the entry survey, must be completely rectified and closed out to the satisfaction of the gaining MACS.

IV. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF EXTENSION OF VESSEL CLASSIFICATION

1. Issuance of Certificate of Extension of Vessel Classification (CEVC), application shall be filed and evaluated by MARINA Regional Office (MRO) where the subject vessel is homeported.

2. The required MARINA inspection for CEVC shall be conducted by the MARINA Joint Central Office-Regional Office inspection team to verify the following, without prejudice to any additional checks deemed necessary by the inspecting authority:

2.1 Structural integrity of the vessel;
2.2 Condition of machinery and essential systems;
2.3 Operational readiness of safety equipment;
2.4 Absence of critical deficiencies affecting seaworthiness.

3. Where inspection reveals deficiencies affecting seaworthiness, structural integrity, machinery reliability, fire safety, passenger safety, or pollution prevention capability, the Administration may immediately impose operational limitations, suspend vessel operation, prohibit departure, or order detention pending satisfactory rectification and verification of compliance, pursuant to Section VI of this Advisory.

Shipowners/operators may be required to submit evidence of compliance to noted deficiencies or undergo follow-up inspections, as necessary.

4. All application for issuance of CEVC shall be filed with the following documentary evidences, as appropriate:

4.1 Letter Request;
4.2 Copy of existing Certificate of Classification;
4.3 Copy of existing Class Survey Status Report;

4.4 Copy of previous/last Survey Report conducted;
4.5 Copy of detailed work orders, findings, and recommended corrective actions issued by Affected MACS (e.g., for closing of outstanding recommendation, drydocking, etc.);
4.6 Confirmed Service Agreement or Letter of Acceptance from the receiving valid MACS, proving an active transfer process in underway (for affected vessels undergoing transfer of class).

5. All vessels found to be compliant with the provisions under this Advisory shall be issued a CEVC to allow the vessel to temporarily operate pending the actual conduct of the required survey or verification survey, which may only be performed under either of the following conditions:

5.1 **Upon Reinstatement:** By the same MACS, provided that its COA has been formally reinstated and its suspension lifted by the Administration; or
5.2 **By an Alternative Valid MACS:** By another classification society holding a valid and active COA under MC No. MS-2020-01, in the event the shipowner opts to permanently initiate a Transfer of Class.

6. The validity of the CEVC shall be issued with validity **not exceeding the suspension period**, unless sooner revoked or suspended by the Administration. As a general rule, this temporary authority is non-renewable, as it is intended solely to bridge the gap until the authority of the Affected MACS is reinstated or the vessel undergoes a Transfer of Class.

7. The CEVC shall be issued by the MRO and drawn up in the form attached as **"Annex B"** in this Advisory.

8. The CEVC issued pursuant to this Advisory shall be strictly temporary and time-bound in nature, to ensure continued operation of an affected vessel during its period of validity. The issuance of a CEVC shall not be construed as:

8.1 Complete substitute for the vessel's required Certificate of Classification;
8.2 Recognition that the vessel has satisfactorily completed the required classification surveys;
8.3 Acceptance, waiver, closure, or permanent resolution of any outstanding recommendations, conditions of class, or overdue surveys;
8.4 Transfer of classification responsibilities from the MACS to the Administration.

9. Inspections undertaken by MARINA pursuant to this advisory shall be considered expanded technical verification inspections for regulatory

determination of temporary operational fitness and shall not be deemed equivalent to a full classification survey, and permanent acceptance of unresolved technical acceptance of the outstanding recommendation and conditions of class specified by the Affected MACS.

10. Upon the re-instatement or lifting of suspension of the COA of the affected MACS, all vessels holding a CEVC that chose to remain under its registry shall immediately apply for the conduct of the corresponding survey and/or verification survey covering the full scope of all overdue surveys, outstanding recommendations, and other applicable requirements.[4]

11. Considering the number of affected vessels that may apply for the issuance of a CEVC, the prioritization of applications shall be undertaken on a risk-based approach, giving precedence to the following vessels, in view of their greater potential impact on safety, the environment, and public interest:

11.1 Vessels whose Certificate of Classification validity or endorsement period/window is nearest to expiration.
11.2 Passenger Ships;
11.3 Oil, Chemical, and Gas Tankers;
11.4 Older vessels;
11.5 Other vessels.

V. HANDLING OF DEFICIENCIES DURING INSPECTION

1. Upon completion of the inspection, whenever deficiencies were identified, an official Notice of Deficiencies shall immediately be issued to the Ship Master or Owner's Representative.

2. Upon receipt of notice of deficiencies, the shipowner or operator shall be required to fully rectify all itemized deficiencies, through submission of documentary evidence and satisfactory conduct of verification inspection.

a. The shipowner must formally submit a comprehensive corrective action backed by definitive technical, photographic, or video evidence of full compliance.
b. The shipowner must settle the designated MARINA re-inspection/ re-verification fee, which constitutes a separate payment from the initial CEVC application fee.
c. Satisfactory conduct of physical verification inspection of the vessel by the MRO.

[4] Shipowners are not precluded from bypassing this reinstatement window by choosing to have the verification survey and full entry inspection (transfer of class) conducted at any time during the suspension period by another MACS maintaining a valid COA.

3. The CEVC shall only be issued upon verified rectification of all deficiencies.

VI. OWNER/OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Shipowners and operators of affected vessels shall:

1. Notify the MRO where its affected vessel is homeported of their affected vessel's classification status within seven (7) calendar days from the official publication or issuance of the Administration's action against the Affected MACS:

   1.1 **Current Classification Standing:** The exact current status of the vessel's Certificate of Classification, including its formal expiration date, the due dates/periods/windows of any upcoming annual or intermediate endorsements, drydocking and a disclosure of all open recommendations or conditions of class.

   1.2 **Intent to Conduct Survey:** A clear declaration of intent outlining whether the company intends to wait for the reinstatement of the current MACS or permanently execute a Transfer of Class to an alternative, validly accredited classification society.

   1.3 **Estimated Timeline and Vessel Location:** The exact current geographical location of the vessel (port, anchorage, or shipyard) along with the estimated date, time, and specific berth where the required verification survey is targeted to take place relative to issuance of CEVC.

2. Officially request for issuance of CEVC on the following period:

   2.1 **For vessels requiring only a technical evaluation**: request shall be filed at least fifteen (15) days prior to expiration validity or end of endorsement period/window or verification of the subject vessel's Certificate of Classification.

   2.2 **For vessels requiring conduct of MARINA inspection/ verification**: request shall be filed at least thirty (30) days prior to expiration validity, or end of endorsement/ verification period/window of the subject vessel's Certificate of Classification. The company must also request the scheduling of the inspection within 15 days of filing.

3. Ensure that vessels are maintained in a safe and seaworthy condition at all times;

4. Promptly rectify any deficiencies identified during inspections.

VII. COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

1. The MRO shall continuously monitor affected vessels during the invalidation period. Oversight of affected vessels and compliance with this Advisory shall be undertaken in accordance with MC Nos. MS-2020-01 and MS-2023-02, including the monitoring of vessel condition, compliance status, and progress of required surveys and verification activities.

2. The Administration reserves the authority to impose additional safety conditions, operational limitations, inspection requirements, or other appropriate control measures whenever deemed necessary in the interest of maritime safety, protection of the marine environment, and public welfare.

VIII. FEES AND CHARGES

The conduct of survey/inspection (including additional inspection/verification) related to issuance of Certificate of Extension of Vessel Classification (CEVC) shall be in accordance with item 1 under Maritime Safety Service of MC No. GC-2026-01[5]

IX. FINES AND PENALTIES

Any violation under this Advisory shall be fined and penalized pursuant to Sec. XII of MC No. MS-2023-02.

X. TRANSITORY

To ensure the continuity of domestic maritime operations and prevent the sudden disruption of shipping services, all affected vessels whose Certificates of Classification expire on or after the official date of suspension or invalidation of the Affected MACS's Certificate of Accreditation (COA) shall be given a period of fifteen (15) calendar days from such date[6] to comply with the certification and administrative requirements prescribed under this Advisory.

During this transition period, such vessels may continue their normal operations provided they have:

a. Filed an official application for the issuance of a Certificate of Extension of Vessel Classification (CEVC) with the appropriate MARINA Regional Office (MRO); or
b. Formalized and initiated a Transfer of Class to a classification society maintaining a valid and active COA.

[5] MARINA Circular No. GC-2026-01 entitled "Omnibus MARINA Schedule of Fees and Charges"
[6] Official date of invalidation of the Affected MACS's Certificate of Accreditation (COA)

XI. EFFECTIVITY

This Advisory shall take effect immediately upon issuance unless sooner amended or revoked.

For guidance and strict compliance.

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