



Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY



**JOINT DOH - MARINA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO.1**

Series of 2019

**SUBJECT : RULES ON THE ACCREDITATION AND MONITORING  
OF MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR OVERSEAS WORKERS  
AND SEAFARERS (MFOWS) AND MEDICAL  
PRACTITIONERS**

---

In accordance with Regulation 1/9 on Medical Standards of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW Convention, 1978, as amended) and pursuant to Republic Act No. 10635 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) which established the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as the single maritime administration of the Republic of the Philippines in the implementation and enforcement of the STCW Convention; Executive Order No. 63 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) which further strengthened the authority of MARINA as the single maritime administration for implanting the STCW Convention, the Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2007-0025 entitled, "Revised Guidelines for Conducting Medical Fitness Examination for Seafarers" and its related documents, Administrative Order No. 2013-0006 as amended by DOH Administrative Order No. 2013-0006-A entitled, "Guidelines to Rule XI: Role of DOH in the Omnibus Rules and Regulations Implementing the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, as amended by Republic Act 10022", Department Circular 2018-0445 " Recognition of Authorized Medical Practitioners in the Issuance of Pre-Employment Medical Examination (PEME) Certificates for Seafarers", the following guidelines are hereby promulgated.

**ARTICLE I**

**POLICIES AND LEGAL BASES**

**Section 1. Statement of Policies.** The following are hereby declared the policies of DOH and MARINA with regard to the accreditation and monitoring of Medical Facility for Overseas Workers and Seafarers (MFOWS) and medical practitioners performing pre-employment medical examination.

- 1.1 The DOH and MARINA shall jointly establish the policies and standards of medical fitness and requirements for accreditation and recognition of medical practitioners who will be responsible for assessing the medical fitness and the

procedures for the issuance of medical certificates to Filipino seafarers in accordance with Regulation 1/9 of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended.

- 1.2 The DOH and MARINA shall ensure that all assessment activities conducted by accredited medical practitioners are subjected to regular monitoring to verify that the same are in accordance with the STCW Convention, as amended.

**Section 2. Legal Bases.** The following are the legal bases for the joint DOH and MARINA monitoring of medical professionals (practitioners).

- 2.1 The authority of MARINA under Executive Order No. 63 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) in "Further Strengthening the Authority of the MARINA as the single maritime administration for the purpose of implementing the 1978 International Convention of Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) 1978, as amended, which mandated under section 7 therein the establishment of standards for medical fitness, accreditation of medical practitioners and issuance of medical certificates.
- 2.2 Section 5 of Executive Order No. 63 which states that the MARINA, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), shall establish the standards of medical fitness and the procedures for the issuance of medical certificates to Filipino seafarers, and ensure that those responsible for assessing the medical fitness of such seafarers are medical practitioners duly recognized and accredited by the DOH.
- 2.3 STCW 1978, as amended
  - a. Article 1, paragraph 2 of the STCW 1978, as amended, which states that Parties undertake to promulgate all laws, decrees, orders and regulations and to take all other steps which may be necessary to give the Convention full and complete effect, so as to ensure that, from the point of view of safety of life and property at sea and the protection of the marine environment, seafarers on board ships are qualified and fit for their duties.
  - b. Regulation 1/8 on Quality Standards paragraphs 1 and 2 which mandates that each Party, [1] in accordance with the provisions of section A-I/8 of the STCW Code, all training, assessment of competence, certification, including medical certification endorsement and revalidation activities carried out by non-governmental agencies are continuously monitored through a quality standards system to ensure achievement of the defined objectives, including those concerning the qualifications and experience of instructors and assessors.
  - c. Paragraph 2 of Regulation 1/9 on Medical Standards which also mandated that each Party shall ensure that those responsible for assessing the medical fitness for seafarers are medical practitioners recognized by the Party for the purpose of seafarer medical examinations, in accordance with the provisions of Section A-I/9 of the STCW Code.



**2.4 Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for RA 10635.**

- a. Rule III, Section 5, Item 10, mandates MARINA to ensure that the medical standards are established to ascertain the medical fitness of seafarers in accordance with the international conventions/treaties and existing laws, and publish a list of DOH-accredited medical facilities.
- b. Rule III, Section 6.10 mandates the Department of Health (DOH) to:
  - .1 Be the responsible agency in establishing and promulgating health standards and guidelines in the regulation of medical health facilities conducting Pre-employment Medical Examinations for seafarers, through the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services;
  - .2 Set the scope of the standard medical examinations and guidelines on the medical fitness examinations and qualifications of seafarers in accordance with the STCW, prior to deployment. The DOH through the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services (BHFS) shall inspect medical clinics and grant the corresponding accreditation as a Medical Facility for Overseas Workers to a clinic that has complied with all the accreditation standards and guidelines.
  - .3 Ensure that medical facilities have established Quality Standards System (QSS) as part of its continuous quality improvement in the standards of medical service for seafarers;
  - .4 Ensure that its QSS is aligned and consistent with the QSS of MARINA and shall subject itself to periodic audits conducted by the latter as the STCW Administration; and
  - .5 Maintain an updated list of accredited medical facilities conducting medical fitness for seafarers in accordance with the STCW.

**ARTICLE II**

**COVERAGE**

This Joint Memorandum Circular shall cover and apply to all accredited Medical Facility for Overseas Workers and Seafarers (MFOWS) and medical practitioners performing pre-employment medical examination which have been duly accredited by the Department of Health (DOH) through the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB).

**Section 3. Definition of Terms**

For purposes of this Joint Circular, the following terms shall be construed as follows:

1. **Accreditation** is a process of qualifying MFOWS to conduct assessment of medical fitness of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and Seafarers.
2. **Assessment Tool** is the checklist which prescribes the minimum standards and requirements for licensure or accreditation of health facilities. It is the tool used by licensing officers and other stakeholders to evaluate compliance of health facilities to DOH standards and technical requirements for safety.
3. **Certificate of Accreditation (COA)** is a formal authorization issued by the Department of Health to an individual, partnership, corporation or association to the approved medical facilities. Accreditation focuses on continuous improvement strategies, achievement of optimal quality standards, and on-going education and consultation; set at a minimum achievable level to stimulate improvement overtime.
4. **Client** constitutes the regulated facilities, stakeholders or the members of the general public.
5. **Fit to Work or Fitness to Work** is a medical assessment done to ensure that an employee or seafarer (cadet or trainee) is able to undertake the range of duties and assignments essential for the completion of all training requirements.
6. **Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) formerly Bureau of Health Facilities and Services (BHFS)** is the regulatory body of the DOH in charge of licensing and accreditation of hospitals and other health facilities.
7. **Health Facility** is the institution, whether stationary or mobile, land based or otherwise, that provides healthcare and other health-related establishment which provides diagnostics, therapeutic, rehabilitative, palliative and/or related health care services except medical radiation facilities and hospital pharmacies.
8. **Inspection** is the actual visit to hospital or other health related facilities to verify compliance to standard minimum requirements as to service capability, physical plant, personnel, equipment and or instrument.
9. **Inspection Team** refers to the DOH regulatory officers authorized to conduct inspection of a medical facility.
10. **MARINA** refers to the Maritime Industry Authority, which is the "Maritime Administration" or "Single Maritime Administration", in accordance with Sec. 2 (e) of R.A. 10635, or simply the "Administration" under STCW and EO No. 63.
11. **MARINA Representative** refers to a staff from the MARINA STCW Office Monitoring Division authorized by the Administrator or his OIC to represent MARINA in the conduct of periodic monitoring of a DOH accredited MFOWS.



12. **Medical Facility for Overseas Workers and Seafarers (MFOWS)** is a health facility including its medical practitioners which had been duly accredited and recognized by the DOH. It conducts pre-employment medical examinations prior to deployment of land based or overseas work applicants or seafarers for domestic/overseas employment to determine whether he/she is physically and mentally fit to work.
13. **Monitoring** refers to the unannounced visit to an accredited MFOWS to verify continuous compliance with the standard minimum requirements as to service capability, physical plant, personnel, equipment and or instrument.
14. **Monitoring Team** refers to the composite MARINA and DOH evaluators authorized to conduct monitoring of a medical facility.
15. **Observer** refers to a person authorized to join the monitoring team as under Study
16. **One-Stop-Shop Team/Licensing Officers**, are responsible for inspection and evaluation of hospitals and other health related facilities as to six (6) key areas: Personnel; Physical facilities; Equipment/instruments; Standard Operating Procedure; Records or files; and Quality improvement activities.
17. **Pre-Employment Medical Examination (PEME)** is the DOH standard medical examination that is conducted prior to deployment of an applicant to determine whether he/she is physically and mentally fit to work. It applies to both land based overseas work applicants and seafarers for domestic/overseas employment.
18. **Pre-Employment Medical Examination Certificate** refers to a form issued to all seafarers meeting the requirements specified in Section A-I/9, paragraph 7 of the STCW Code before rendering service on board. Medical information recorded in the certificate shall be limited to those directly relevant to the functional requirements of the seafarer's duties.
19. **Quality Standards System (QSS)** refers to an established system or documented policies, procedures, controls and internal quality assurance, which covers but is not limited to, training, competence, certification, including medical certification, endorsement and revalidation activities carried out by non-governmental agencies or entities under its authority. The QSS is established as a mechanism to monitor and ensure the achievement of defined objectives in accordance with the requirements of the STCW Convention.
20. **STCW Convention or STCW** refers to the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, and its subsequent amendments.

21. **STCW Office (STCWO)** refers to the office in MARINA, specifically tasked to give full and complete effect to the requirements of STCW.

### **ARTICLE III** **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Section 4.** Pursuant to Section 2 of EO 63 and its IRR and the provisions of Regulation I/9 of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended:

- 4.1 The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as the single maritime administration acts as the overseer in the full implementation of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended.
- 4.2 The DOH and MARINA shall ensure that those responsible for assessing the medical fitness for seafarers are medical practitioners and medical facilities accredited and recognized for the purpose of seafarer medical examinations.
- 4.3 All Filipino seafarers holding a certificate issued under the provisions of the Convention, who is serving at sea, shall also hold a valid medical certificate.
- 4.4 The DOH shall be the lead agency in the implementation of this Joint Circular and shall be responsible for the issuance of the Certificate of Accreditation (COA) for MFOWS and medical practitioners.
- 4.5 MARINA shall act as a member of the team for periodic joint monitoring of the medical facilities duly approved by DOH.
- 4.6 MARINA shall periodically audit DOH pursuant to its Quality Standards System and shall inform the DOH of every amendment to the Convention.

### **ARTICLE IV** **COMPOSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE** **MONITORING TEAM MEMBERS**

**Section 5. Composition.** The inspection shall solely be conducted by the DOH – HFSRB. The monitoring team members may however be composed jointly by DOH and MARINA, as follows:

- 5.1 Monitoring Team from the Quality Assurance and Monitoring Division of the HFSRB
- 5.2 MARINA Evaluator/s from STCW Office Monitoring Division

**Section 6. Qualifications.** Every person joining the DOH-MARINA monitoring team shall possess the following qualifications:



**6.1 Team Leader from the DOH – HFSRB**

- .1 Licensed Physician/Medical Officer

**6.2 Technical Staff from the DOH – HFSRB**

- .1 Registered Nurse
- .2 Registered Medical Technologist
- .3 Licensed Engineer/Architect

**6.3 OSS Team Member/Licensing Officer from the DOH**

- .1 Licensed Physician/ Medical Officer
- .2 Registered Nurse
- .3 Registered Medical Technologist
- .4 Health Physicist (if available)
- .5 Licensed Engineer/Architect

**6.4 Monitoring Team Member from MARINA**

- .1 have completed Internal Quality Auditor Course;
- .2 have joined at least 3 monitoring activities as an Observer;
- .3 be knowledgeable of the statutory requirements on STCW, Memorandum Circulars and other relevant rules and regulations; and
- .4 have signed a disclosure of conflict of interest and non-disclosure agreement.

Members of the inspection and monitoring must not be involved in the activities of, or have any connection to the applicant-MFOWS.

**Section 7. Functions of Team Leader and Monitoring Team Members.** The functions of the Team Leader and Monitoring Team members are as follows:

**7.1 Team Leader:**

- .1 Leads the conduct of evaluation following an ethical and professional monitoring standard;
- .2 Ensures the effective and efficient conduct of the monitoring;
- .3 Presides the opening and closing meeting with officials of the MFOWS being monitored;
- .4 Prepares final monitoring report as written in the assessment tool in coordination with monitoring team members;
- .5 Ensures the submission of final monitoring report to Division Chief; and
- .6 Provides copy of the directory of the accredited and recognized MFOWS and Medical Practitioners semi-annually to MARINA Administrator through the STCW Office, Monitoring Division.

**7.2 Technical Staff from the DOH – HFSRB:**

- .1 Provides technical expertise in the monitoring of the MFOWS; and
- .2 Conducts evaluation in an ethical and professional monitoring standard.

**7.3 Monitoring Team Member from the DOH – HFSRB:**

- .1 Conducts evaluation in an ethical and professional monitoring standard;
- .2 Provides administrative support such as coordination with MFOWS, logistical support (travel, accommodation, etc.); and
- .3 Assists in the preparation and submission of monitoring report.

**7.4 Monitoring Team Member from MARINA:**

- .1 Coordinates with the DOH prior to the conduct of monitoring;
- .2 Conducts evaluation in an ethical and professional monitoring standard; and
- .3 Ensures that the monitoring report received by the STCW Office, Monitoring Division is endorsed to the MARINA Administrator and a copy thereof is duly filed.

**ARTICLE V**

**PLANNING FOR ACCREDITATION AND MONITORING**

**Section 8. Preparation and Approval of Accreditation and Monitoring**

The Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2013-0006 as amended and the Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2007-0025 entitled, "Revised Guidelines for Conducting Medical Fitness Examination for Seafarers" and its related documents, shall remain as the standards on the accreditation of the medical facilities that conduct PEME, and shall be used as basis for the monitoring activity.

- 8.1 For purposes of accreditation as an MFOWS, the inspection shall solely be conducted by the DOH – HFSRB.
- 8.2 MARINA shall be included in the annual monitoring program of the DOH. likewise, schedule of activities with DOH shall be reflected in the annual monitoring program of the STCW Office, Monitoring Division.
- 8.3 The monitoring schedule shall be transmitted by the DOH-HFSRB to the MARINA STCW Office – Monitoring Division thirty (30) days prior to the conduct of monitoring activity.
- 8.4 **Cancellation or Postponement.** Cancellation or postponement of the monitoring activity due to the following circumstances shall be addressed within five (5) working days for mutual agreement of both parties:
  - a. public holidays; or
  - b. unavailability of monitoring team members from DOH or MARINA; or
  - c. other similar circumstances which are beyond the reasonable control of the DOH, MARINA or the institution concerned.



## ARTICLE VI

### PROCEDURES ON THE ACCREDITATION OF MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR OVERSEAS WORKERS AND SEAFARERS (MFOWS) AND MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

#### **Section 9. Where to file the application.**

Medical Facilities for Overseas Workers and Seafarers (MFOWS) and Medical Practitioners intending to operate and conduct pre-employment medical examination, assess the medical fitness of the seafarers and issue medical certificates that are required for certification of seafarers under the STCW '78 Convention, as amended, shall file an application for accreditation at the DOH-HFSRB, which shall be supported by the following documentary requirements:

- a. Form1Application Form for MFOWS;
- b. Certified true copy (one set) of the following documents for each applicant medical practitioner:
  - 1. Valid PRC ID
  - 2. Notarized Contract of Employment or Appointment
  - 3. Certificate of Attendance of one (1) day Maritime Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) under DOLE-Accredited Training Organization

#### **Section 10. Review of completeness of documents and evaluation application.**

The DOH-HFSRB shall review the completeness of the documents submitted. Application without complete supporting documents shall be returned to the applicant. Applications of MFOWS and Medical Practitioners with complete supporting documents shall be scheduled and notified for inspection.

#### **Section 11. Conduct of Inspection.**

When all documentary requirements are fully complied with, the DOH shall conduct an inspection of the applicant MFOWS' compliance set forth under the Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2007-0025 entitled, "Revised Guidelines for Conducting Medical Fitness Examination for Seafarers" and its related documents, Administrative Order No. 2013-0006 as amended by Administrative Order No. 2013-0006-A and the Department Circular 2018-0445 "Recognition of Authorized Medical Practitioners in the Issuance of Pre-Employment Medical Examination (PEME) Certificates for Seafarers"

## **Section 12. Issuance of Certificate of Accreditation (COA)**

1. The DOH- HFSRB shall issue a Certificate of Accreditation (COA) covering the recognition of applicant MFOWS and Medical Practitioners which are compliant with the requirements set by the Department of Health (DOH).
2. Any further violations as mentioned in the Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2013-0006 as amended by Administrative Order No. 2013-0006-A shall be dealt with separately by the DOH. In addition, provisions for appeal as stated in the same issuance shall still apply.

## **Section 13. Registration to the MARINA Integrated Seafarers Management Online (MISMO) System**

DOH -HFSRB shall upload to the MISMO the list of accredited MFOWS and recognized Medical Practitioners.

The uploaded list of MFOWS and medical practitioners at the MISMO shall automatically be considered as accredited and recognized by MARINA as only those capable to conduct assessment of medical fitness to seafarers.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **PROCEDURES IN MONITORING OF MEDICAL FACILITY FOR OVERSEAS WORKERS AND SEAFARERS (MFOWS)**

#### **Section 14. Conduct of Monitoring**

- 14.1 All monitoring activities of the DOH may be joined by a MARINA representative/s from the STCWO Monitoring Division.
- 14.2 All medical facilities which conduct or intend to conduct PEME for seafarers shall allow monitoring by MARINA in coordination with DOH.
- 14.3 DOH approved medical facilities shall allow official entry of MARINA Representative/s as part of the OSS Team or Licensing Officers' team in the conduct of monitoring.
- 14.4 **Pre-Monitoring Meeting.** The Team Lead shall convene the Monitoring Team prior to the Opening Meeting to confirm and discuss the monitoring plan particularly the assignment for each monitoring team member.

The Monitoring Plan may be modified, as the need arises and upon agreement of the Monitoring Team members and to be conveyed to the MFOWS during the opening meeting.

- 14.5 **Monitoring Proper.** Every monitoring activity shall be conducted in accordance with the following:



14.5.1 Opening meeting – The Joint DOH-MARINA conducts Opening Meeting with MFOWS Medical Director or duly authorized representative and concerned officials and staff.

The Team Leader shall introduce the members of the Monitoring Team and provide information on the following:

- .1 scope and objective(s) of monitoring, key areas of monitoring and assigned evaluators, estimated time or duration of the activity;
- .2 the responsible person from the MFOWS and the estimated time or duration of monitoring which may be modified as the need arises;
- .3 methods and procedures to be used in the monitoring;
- .4 documents, information, equipment, facilities, presence of officials and support staff who may be needed by the Monitoring Team;
- .5 method of reporting of findings/violations and the timeframe for the submission of Compliance Reports;
- .6 confidentiality of evaluation findings, documents and information.

14.5.2 **Key Areas for the conduct of Monitoring.** The MFOWS shall be monitored based on existing policies, standards and guidelines for said programs as prescribed by DOH and MARINA. Key areas include:

- 1. Personnel;
- 2. Physical facilities;
- 3. Equipment/ instruments;
- 4. Standard Operating Procedure;
- 5. Records or files; and
- 6. Quality improvement activities.

14.5.3 The monitoring shall be carried out by evaluating the key areas through any of the following methods or procedures:

- .1 interviewing responsible personnel/staff for the key area being evaluated and inspected;
- .2 evaluating and reviewing the relevant quality processes, procedures and documented information; and
- .3 testing and evaluating the functionality, suitability and adequacy of relevant facilities, equipment and instruments.

The result of the conduct of monitoring shall be recorded in the same forms used by the applicant MFOWS in self-assessment tool and by the DOH-HFSRB in documentary review.

**14.5.4 Deliberation of findings** – Once the evaluation is completed, the Monitoring Team shall meet to discuss and agree on their evaluation findings and decide whether they constitute compliance or noncompliance.

**14.5.5 Closing meeting/Exit conference** – The Joint DOH-MARINA Monitoring Team shall conduct closing meeting with applicant MFOWS President or authorized representative and concerned officials where evaluation findings are discussed and provide a copy of the assessment tool to the MFOWS.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **MONITORING FINDINGS**

If upon deliberation, the monitoring findings constitute a non-compliance, a Notice of Violation (NOV) shall be issued and served by the monitoring team to the MFOWS found in violation of the terms and conditions of their accreditation.

The notice is part of a due process where facility owners are directed to submit written explanation within three (3) days from receipt of notice by the facility owner or authorized representative and to either cease and desist from operating.

#### **Section 15. Follow-Up Verification.**

Upon submission of the written explanation, the MFOWS shall ensure immediate implementation of the corrective and preventive actions and be subjected to a follow-up verification in the next three (3) months.

If the MFOWS concerned fail to comply with the aforesaid conditions and/or implementation within the agreed timeframe or based on clear evidence during follow up verification, the procedure to cease and desist from operating shall be initiated.

#### **Section 16. Appeals.**

1. The MFOWS and Medical Practitioners concerned may appeal the decision to revoke/suspend the COA directly to DOH through the HFSRB. Such appeal must be supported by affidavit bearing a statement of facts and evidence that rebuts the adverse findings.
2. The Office of the Director shall issue a decision or resolution or notice as necessary within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the appeal, regarding the appeal.
3. Any decision or resolution issued by the Office of the Director shall become final and executory unless appealed to the Office of the Secretary within ten (10) working days from receipt of the decision



4. The Office of the Secretary shall resolve the appeal within a period of thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the appeal, with or without the appellee's comment.
5. The decision or resolution of the Office of the Secretary shall be final and executory. No motion for consideration of the decision of the Secretary shall be entertained except when based on patent errors, provided that the motion is under oath and filed within ten (10) days from receipt of the decision or resolution, with proof of service that the same has been furnished to the adverse party.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR OVERSEAS WORKERS AND SEAFARERS (MFOWS) AND MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS**

#### **Section 17. All MFOWS and Medical Practitioners with valid COA shall:**

1. Adhere to all rules and regulations, orders or directives of the DOH and MARINA;
2. Conduct PEME of seafarers within the premises of the MFOWS accredited and recognized by the DOH;
3. Ensure that only those medical practitioners accredited and recognized by the DOH shall personally conduct the PEME for seafarers;
4. Allow the unannounced entry of the monitoring team of DOH and/or MARINA provided they show the proper written authority;
5. Ensure the safety and privacy of the seafarers during the conduct of pre-employment medical examination;
6. Ensure that all the medical equipment/ instruments are in good working condition during operating hours and has an effective preventive maintenance system in place;
7. Ensure adequate number and availability of medical staff to accommodate the medical assessment necessary to accomplish the pre-employment medical examination.
8. Ensure that all MFOWS shall address all clients' complaints/feedbacks accordingly.
9. Shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement with MARINA pursuant to Section 13 hereof.

**Section 18. Sanctions.** Any violation of the provisions of this Joint Circular shall be governed by the Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2007-0025, Administrative Order No. 2013-0006 and any amendments thereof.

## **Article X**

### **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**Section 19. Repealing Clause.** All issuances, relevant policies, standards and guidelines which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Joint Memorandum Circular are hereby repealed, amended, modified or superseded in accordance with the intent of this Circular.

**Section 20. Separability Clause.** If any part or provision of this Joint Memorandum Circular shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**Section 21. Transitory Provisions.** Upon effectivity of this Joint DOH-MARINA Circular, all MFOWS with existing COA shall comply with the provisions of Department Circular 2018-0445 "Recognition of Authorized Medical Practitioners in the Issuance of Pre-Employment Medical Examination (PEME) Certificates for Seafarers".

These existing MFOWS shall be subjected to monitoring upon effectivity of this circular.

All provisions of this joint circular shall immediately be implemented to new applicant MFOWS.

**Section 22. Effectivity Clause.** This Joint Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation or its publication in the Official Gazette.

Manila, Philippines, October 18, 2019.



Approved:

For the Department of Health:

*for: [Signature]*  
**DR. FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MSc**  
Health Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of Health

For the Maritime Administration:

*[Signature]*  
**VADM NARCISO A VINGSON JR**  
Officer-In-Charge  
Office of the Administrator  
Maritime Industry Authority

**Date of Publication : 05 November 2019**  
**Business Mirror**