



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY**



DATE: **NOV 16 2020**

**MARINA ADVISORY**  
**NO. 2020 - 83**  
**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 REVALIDATION PERIOD FOR STCW CERTIFICATES AS A TEMPORARY CONTINGENCY MEASURE AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The actions taken worldwide and within the 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 effecting crew changes. For this reason, the maritime industry stakeholders are seeking for a longer extension of validity of the STCW certificates of Filipino seafarers to gain continued employment opportunity on board ships.

In response thereto, 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 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.

In view thereof, the following guidelines relative to the extension of the validity and revalidation of the STCW certificates are hereby issued:

#### **I. EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY OF STCW CERTIFICATES**

1. All STCW certificates issued by the MARINA that have expired or are expiring **between the period of 13 March 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 the 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:**

- a. Completed approved seagoing service performing duties appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
    - (i) Twelve (12) months in total during the last 5 years prior to revalidation; OR,
    - (ii) Three (3) months in total during the last 6 months immediately prior to revalidating;
  - b. For Certificate of Proficiency (COP) in 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; and
  - c. Meet the standards of medical fitness specified in Section A-I/9 of the STCW code.
2. The concerned licensed manning agencies and shipping companies are required to ensure that the 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 email at [certificate\\_extension@mail.marina.gov.ph](mailto:certificate_extension@mail.marina.gov.ph) following the attached template in Annex A.

## II. REVALIDATION AND EXPEDITE PROCESSING

1. All application for revalidation of certificates of seafarers that have expired or are expiring within the period **13 March 2020 to 31 December 2020** will still be processed as revalidation, and the revalidated COP or Certificate of Competency (COC) shall be given five (5) years validity from the date of their issuance subject to full compliance with the documentary requirements;
2. Applications for revalidation of STCW certificates without the required refresher trainings and/or practical assessment of competence shall be accepted and processed, and the corresponding COC or COP to be issued shall have a validity period of **one (1) year only** from the date of issuance subject to compliance with the following:
  - a. Only seafarers who are scheduled for deployment within the 10 calendar days from the date of application are qualified under this advisory;
  - b. Applicant seafarers must have completed approved seagoing service performing duties appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
    - (i) Twelve (12) months in total during the last 5 years prior to revalidation; OR
    - (ii) Three (3) months in total during the last 6 months immediately prior to revalidating;



- c. COP in tanker courses shall be accepted for revalidation, even if expired, provided the applicant seafarer has completed seagoing service, performing the duties appropriate to the tanker certificate held, for a period of at least three (3) months in total during the preceding 5 years;
- d. Seafarers applying for revalidation of COP and COC shall meet the standards of medical fitness specified in Section A-I/9 of the STCW Code, and a valid medical certificate from the DOH-accredited medical clinic shall be submitted / encoded into the MISMO System;

Applications under this Advisory shall be filed for expedited processing through the Liaison Officer of concerned licensed manning agency/shipping company.

Documentary requirements for the expedite application shall be uploaded into the MISMO system as follows:

- 2.1 Letter of concerned licensed manning agency duly signed by authorized official requesting for expedited processing of the application of its seafarer;
- 2.2 POEA-approved employment contract; and,
- 2.3 OEC- overseas employment certificate

FURTHER, all seafarers are encouraged to apply for revalidation of their Certificate of Competency (COC) and Certificate of Proficiency (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. 2020-73, Series of 2020 and all other issuances which are contrary to this Advisory are hereby rescinded.

This Advisory shall take effect immediately and shall be valid until 31 December 2020 unless sooner revoked or a separate advisory was issued extending the validity of this Advisory.

For strict compliance.

  
**VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)**  
Administrator 



## ANNEX A

(Company letterhead and logo)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Executive Director**  
Office of the Executive Director  
STCW Office  
Maritime Industry Authority

Dear Sir/Madam:

Hereunder are the names of our crewmember/s whose STCW certificate/s have been extended pursuant to MARINA Advisory \_\_\_\_\_.

Name of Seafarer	Capacity / Position	Extended Certificate (COP/COC/ COE)	Date of Expiry of Certificate	Name of Ship	Name of Ship owner	IMO Number & Flag of ship

For your information and reference.

Very truly yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name & signature of authorized official)