

[MARINA CIRCULAR NO. 2018-03, May 22, 2018]

AMENDMENTS TO MARINA CIRCULAR NO. 137 ON THE MINIMUM SAFE MANNING FOR SEAGOING SHIPS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Adopted: 22 March 2018

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Pursuant to the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Seafarers 1978 (STCW Convention), as amended; IMO Resolution A1047 (27) - Principles of Safe Manning; Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS), as amended; Section 12 (e) of Executive Order No. 125, as amended; and the Republic Act No 10635, the following revised guidelines on the provision of minimum safe manning are hereby provided:

I. OBJECTIVE:

To ensure that all Philippine-registered ships are properly manned by qualified and licensed officers and crew in accordance with the STCW Convention who can safely operate the ships at all times in accordance with the relevant provisions stated in this Circular.

II. COVERAGE:

This Circular shall apply to all Philippine-registered seagoing ships engaged in international trade.

III. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

1. Able Seafarer Deck (ASD) means a rating qualified in accordance with the provisions of regulation II/5 of the STCW Convention, as amended.
2. Able Seafarer Engine (ASE) means a rating qualified in accordance with the provisions of regulation III/5 of the STCW Convention, as amended.
3. Chief Engineer is a senior engineer officer responsible for the mechanical propulsion and the operation and maintenance of the mechanical and electrical installations of the ship and qualified in accordance with the provisions of the STCW Convention, as amended.
4. Chief Mate means the officer next in rank to the master and upon whom the command of ship will fall in the event of the incapacity of the master and qualified in accordance with the provisions of the STCW Convention, as

amended.

5. Deck Officer means an officer qualified in accordance with Chapter II of the STCW Convention, as amended.
6. Electro-Technical Officer (ETO) means an officer qualified in accordance with regulation III/6 of the STCW Convention, as amended.
7. Engineer Officer means an officer qualified in accordance with Chapter III/1, III/2 or III/3 of the STCW Convention, as amended.
8. Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Radio Operator means a person who is qualified in accordance with of chapter IV of the STCW Convention, as amended.
9. Master is a person having command of a ship and qualified in accordance with the STCW Convention, as amended.
10. Radio Operator is a person holding an appropriate certificate issued and recognized by the Administration under the provisions of the Radio Regulations.
11. Radio Regulations means the Radio Regulations annexed to, or regarded as being annexed to, the most recent International Telecommunication Convention which may be in force at any time.
12. Ratings means a member of the ship's crew other than the master or an officer.
13. Ratings Forming Part of an Engineering Watch (RFPEW) means a rating qualified in accordance with regulation III/4 of the STCW Convention, as amended.
14. Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch (RFPNW) means a rating qualified in accordance with regulation II/4 of the STCW Convention, as amended.
15. Sailing Short Handed refers to a condition where the manning complement of a ship is in less than the approved manning complement during voyage due to unforeseen exceptional circumstances such as illness or injury, from a port of origin to the next port of destination.
16. Second Engineer Officer means the engineer officer next in rank to the chief engineer officer and upon whom the responsibility for the mechanical propulsion and the operation and maintenance of the mechanical and electrical installations of the ship will fall in the event of the incapacity of the chief engineer officer.
17. Seagoing Ship refers to Philippine-registered ships engaged in international trade.

18. Special Manning refers to a manning complement given to a ship as requested by the company in the instances provided in Section VII.1 of this Circular.
19. STCW Convention means the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers as adopted by 2010 Manila Convention, as amended.
20. STCW Code means the Seafarer's Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code as adopted by 1995 Conference resolution as may be amended by the Organization.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

1. Master, officers and ratings onboard seagoing ships shall be duly qualified, competent, certificated and medically fit in accordance with the existing regulations on the issuance of certificates and endorsements for seafarers.
2. Seagoing ships shall have onboard an approved Minimum Safe Manning Certificate indicating the minimum number of officers and crew and their corresponding licenses and qualification requirements.
3. A minimum of two (2) watch keeping deck officers or one (1) dedicated radio officer are required to have the appropriate GMDSS radio operator's certificate (IV/2) general or restricted depending upon the ship's intended sea area of operation.
4. The highest power rating of one (1) of the main propulsion machineries, in case of multiple engines, shall be the basis for determining the minimum safe manning requirements in the engine department in so far as competency is concerned.
5. Ship with power system above 1000 volts shall have an Electro-Technical Officer (ETO) onboard. The classification society shall determine the power system onboard ships.

V. MINIMUM SAFE MANNING:

The provisions of IMO Resolution A1047 (27) - Principles of Safe Manning, and its future amendments, are hereby adopted as an integral part of this Circular.

VI. BASIC SAFE MANNING SCALE:

The following Minimum Safe Manning shall be followed:

1. CATEGORY 1: Ships Engaged in International Voyage

1.1 Passenger Ships/Cargo Ships/Tankers

1.1.1 Deck Department

Tonnage (G T)	No .	Capacity	STCW Regulation
Les s t han	1	M aste r	II/2