

**[ MARINA CIRCULAR NO. 2009-24, December 29, 2009 ]**

**ACCREDITATION AND/OR AUTHORIZATION OF ORGANIZATIONS  
FOR PURPOSES OF CLASSIFICATION OF PHILIPPINE-  
REGISTERED SHIPS IN THE DOMESTIC TRADE AND  
SUPERVISION AND AUDIT OF ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS**

Pursuant to the pertinent provisions of PD 474, EO 125 and R.A. 9295, as amended, and International Maritime Organization Resolution A.739(18), and A.789(19), the following guidelines are promulgated to govern the accreditation and/or authorization of ship classification societies and other entities intending to establish a classification society to cater to the needs of the Philippine domestic fleet.

*Section 1. OBJECTIVE:*

1. To authorize IACS members and other reputable International Classification Organizations to perform classification of ships and High Speed Craft in the domestic trade.
2. To accredit only one (1) local classification organization to cater to the classification requirements of ships in the domestic trade.
3. To institutionalize a Philippine Government (PG) Classification System to cater to the classification requirements for non convention wooden hulled ships and ships 35 GT and below.
4. To set up guidelines and procedures in the supervision and audit of all Administration accredited and/or authorized organizations performing classification work for ships.
5. To identify responsibilities of accredited and/or authorized classification organization performing classification.

*Section 2. COVERAGE:*

This Circular shall apply to all shipping companies, shipowners/ operators, all local classification organizations duly organized and authorized under existing Philippine laws, all recognized members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) and other reputable international classification organizations engaged in the classification of ships in the domestic trade.

*Section 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS:*

1. **Administration** – refers to the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA).
2. **Classification Organization** – a non-stock, non-profit organization, local or international, that establishes and applies technical standards in relation to the design, construction and survey of marine related facilities including ships and offshore structures.
3. **Ship Classification** – the process performed by a classification organization to ensure that a ship is designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the rules established by that classification society.
4. **Accreditation** – refers to the process of qualifying Organizations to conduct classification activities for ships.
5. **Authorization** – refers to the process of qualifying IACS members and other reputable international classification organizations to conduct classification activities for ships.
6. **Local Classification Organization** – refers to a non-stock, non-profit organization organized under existing Philippine laws in order to comply with the Administration policy of accrediting only one classification society for the purpose of classing ships, above 35 GT in the domestic trade.
7. **PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT CLASS (PG Class) SYSTEM** – refers to the classing non convention wooden hull ships and ships 35 GT and below by Administration technical personnel following the regulations set by this Circular.

*Section 4. ACCREDITATION AND/OR AUTHORIZATION OF ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF CLASSIFICATION.*

1. The Administration, in the exercise of its authority and prerogative as Flag State Administration hereby adopts the policy of accrediting only one (1) local classification organization.
2. The Administration may also authorize members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) and other reputable international classification organizations presently performing classification of ships in the international and domestic trade.
3. Accreditation shall serve as prerequisite to the grant of permits, authorities and incentives pertaining to classification activities, which are presently administered, or to be administered, by the Administration.
4. No Organization without a Certificate of Accreditation or Authorization from the MARINA shall be authorized to undertake classification service of domestic fleet. Only Surveyors of Accredited Organization shall be authorized to perform classification of domestic ships required to be classed.

5. Convention sized ships in the domestic trade currently classed by IACS shall not be allowed to change to local class unless for economic reason.

#### *Section 5. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR AN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATION*

1. The organization shall define and document its policy and objective for, and commitment to, quality and ensure that this policy is understood, implement and maintained.
2. The organization shall be governed by principles of ethical behavior which should be contained in a Code of Ethics and as such recognize the inherent responsibility associated with a delegation of authority to include assurance as to the adequate performance of services as well as the confidentiality of related information, as appropriate.
3. The organization shall allow the participation of qualified technical representatives of the Administration and other parties concerned in the development of its rules and/or regulations.
4. The organization must maintain its own website which must contain all relevant ship records and provide the Administration electronic access thereto.
5. The organization must establish procedure to request records from other classification societies that previously classed the ship.
6. The organization should provide the Administration every 15th of January a list, in electronic form, of the ships surveyed of the preceding year including ship name, type of service and IMO numbers.
7. The organization should keep records of persons acting on its behalf and be made available to the Administration.
8. The organization should provide for the publication and systematic maintenance of rules and/or regulations in the English language for the design, construction and certification of ships and their associated essential engineering systems as well as the provision of an adequate research capability to ensure appropriate updating of the published criteria.
9. The organization should be established with:
  - 9.1 A significant number of managerial, technical and support staff, capable of developing and maintaining rules and/or regulations.
  - 9.2 At least twenty (20) technical personnel and ten (10) support staff to provide the required service.
10. The organization should demonstrate the technical, administrative and managerial competence and capacity to ensure the provision of quality services in a timely fashion.

11. The Administration shall conduct regular annual and random audit of the organization to ensure that all rules, guidelines and policies of the administration are complied with.

#### *Section 6. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS*

1. The organization so established must be non-stock, non-profit.
2. Officers and employees of the organization must not have commercial interest related to the design, construction, ownership, operation, management, maintenance or repairs, insurance or chartering of ships.
3. The organization's working group must be able to render the following services:
  - 3.1 Classification services – to develop and administer the technical standards for the design, construction and periodical survey of ships and other marine structures such as mobile offshore unit;
  - 3.2 Technical Advisory services – to render advisory services related to ship design, construction, revision of rules referred to by the Administration.
  - 3.3 Logistical and Personnel services – to service domestic fleet geographically distributed in the different parts of the country.
  - 3.4 Other services as may be deemed necessary and appropriate by the Administration.
4. Local Class Organization should establish offices in the following areas which must have at least two (2) surveyors:
  - 4.1 La Union
  - 4.2 Metro Manila
  - 4.3 Batangas
  - 4.4 Legazpi
  - 4.5 Iloilo
  - 4.6 Cebu
  - 4.7 Tacloban
  - 4.8 Zamboanga
  - 4.9 Cagayan
  - 4.10 Davao
  - 4.11 General Santos
5. The quality system of the organization shall be certified in accordance with the ISO 9000 series or its subsequent amendments, by an internationally recognized independent body of auditors/certifying body within a period of one (1) year from its initial accreditation. Certification under ISO 9000 series, issued by a member of an internationally accepted classification society is acceptable and given preference.
6. Local Class Organization must have in its employ the following with good moral character, unquestionable integrity and who shall not be more than sixty (60) years of age:

<b>License</b>	<b>Work Experience (Within the last Five [5] years)</b>	<b>Number</b>
Naval Architect and Marine Engineer	Five (5) years as Naval Architect and Marine Engineer	Four (4)
Chief Engineer	Five (5) years as Chief Marine Engineer	Four (4)
Master Mariner	Five (5) years as Master Mariner	Four (4)
Mechanical Engineer, Electrical Engineer	Ten (10) years working experience as superintendent and/or division manager in a MARINA-accredited shipyard	Four (4) ME Four (4) EE

*Section 7. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS:*

1. SEC Registration Certificate as a non-stock, non-profit entity.
2. For IACS members and reputable international classification organization proof of registration at the country where its headquarter is located.
3. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.
4. List of surveyors, technical, managerial and support staff, including their curriculum vitae detailing their respective qualifications and experiences.
5. Code of Ethics
6. Classification Rule Books for the design, construction and certification of ships subject to certification under SOLAS Convention for organization performing classification on convention size ships and High Speed Craft.
7. Classification Rule Books for the design, construction and certification of ships subject to certification under the Administration's standards, regulations and the SSIS for organization performing classification on non-convention size ships.
8. Schedule of all fees to be charged including escalation rates and frequency.
9. Documented system of the organization's development, implementation and maintenance of an effective internal quality system based on appropriate recognized quality standards no less effective than ISO series, and which, inter alia, ensures that: