

**[ MIA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 199, SERIES  
2004, June 16, 2004 ]**

**REVISED CLASS REQUIREMENT FOR PHILIPPINE-REGISTERED  
DOMESTIC SHIPS**

Pursuant to Sec. 6(b) of P.D. No. 474, Sec. 14 (a)/(e) of E.O. No. 125, as amended, and R.A. No. 9295, the current policy on the mandatory requirement for Philippine-registered domestic ships to be classed pursuant to MARINA M.C. No. 124 as amended, is hereby revised to effect the following:

**I. Expanded Coverage of Ships Required To Be Classed**

All passenger-carrying ships, above 3 GT, regardless of hull material, whether existing or to be acquired and registered under the Philippine flag, shall be required to be classed by government-recognized/accredited classification societies.

**II. Guidelines and Requirements for Implementation**

1. Convention-sized passenger-carrying ships (i.e. 500 GT and over), which are not yet classed, shall be immediately applied for classification with any of the government-recognized/ accredited classification societies.
2. Non-convention sized steel-hulled passenger-carrying ships covered by the herein requirement, which are not yet classed, shall likewise immediately be applied for classification with any of the government recognized/ accredited classification societies having existing and approved rules for such.
3. In classing non-convention sized wooden-hulled passenger-carrying ships covered by this Circular, the herein attached Administration standards, which shall form an integral part hereof, shall be used as basis for government-recognized/ accredited classification societies to adopt their corresponding Class Rules to be used for such type of ships, and submit the same for MARINA's review, evaluation and approval.

The MARINA shall undertake a review/ evaluation of the herein adopted Administration standards for classing wooden-hulled ships, and amend the same where necessary, especially within the deadlines set for compliance, after due consultation with affected

shipowners/operators and government-recognized/ accredited classification societies.

4. Only upon approval by the MARINA of the submitted Class Rules and issuance of the corresponding Certificate of Authority to Class, shall the government-recognized/ accredited classification societies be authorized to class non-convention sized wooden-hulled passenger-carrying ships.
5. The government-recognized/ accredited classification societies are enjoined to adopt reasonable fees and charges for small to medium-sized shipowners/operators, with the Administration subsequently prescribing caps for such fees and charges after due consultation/discussion with the concerned recognized/ accredited organizations.
6. All passenger-carrying ships covered by this Circular which are to be acquired as newbuilding, bareboat-charter or lease-purchase should be immediately classed by a government-recognized/ accredited classification society, and submit proof of such prior to their registration under the Philippine flag.
7. The Administration shall undertake verification and monitoring of activities in the classing of ships provided herein, to ensure the adequacy of work performed by the concerned recognized/ accredited organizations authorized to act in its behalf.

### **III. Timetables for Compliance**

1. For owners/operators of all convention-sized, passenger-carrying ships covered under Sec. I hereof, they are given until 30 August 2004 to initiate compliance with the herein prescribed class requirement, and submit proof of such initiation on or before such date.

Such ships shall obtain their Interim or Final Class Certificate and submit the same to the Administration on or before 30 August 2005.

2. For owners/operators of all steel- hulled, non-convention sized, passenger-carrying ships covered under Sec. I hereof, they are given until 30 September 2004 to initiate compliance with the herein prescribed class requirement, and submit proof of such initiation on or before such date.

Such ships shall obtain their Interim or Final Class Certificate and submit the same to the Administration on or before 30 September