

**[ MIA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 164, S. 2001,  
March 15, 2001 ]**

**RULES GOVERNING THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A  
QUALIFICATION DOCUMENT CERTIFICATION SYSTEM IN THE  
DOMESTIC TRADE**

Pursuant to Section 12 (g) of Executive Order No. 125, as amended and DOJ Opinion No. 62, s. 1989, and in order to ensure greater safety of life and property at sea and protection of marine environment, the adoption of a qualification document certification system in the domestic trade is hereby prescribed.

**I. OBJECTIVE**

To ensure that all seafarers onboard domestic ships are properly certificated, qualified, competent and medically fit for the proper performance of functions onboard ships operating coastwise.

**II. COVERAGE**

These rules shall apply to all ships of at least 100 GT or of propulsion of at least 200 kW operating primarily in the domestic waters, except those onboard:

1. warships, naval auxiliaries or other ships owned or operated by a State and engaged only on governmental non-commercial service;
2. fishing vessels;
3. pleasure yachts not engaged in trade; or
4. wooden ships of primitive build.

**III. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

1. Qualification Document Certificate (QDC) means a document issued by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) to seafarers serving onboard ships of at least 100 GT and of propulsion of at least 200 kW.
2. Authentication refers to the MARINA's attestation/validation/confirmation of certificates and documents issued by it or by other agencies and entities.
3. Officers refer to duly certificated and/or licensed deck, engine and radio officers.
4. Ratings mean a ship's crew other than the Master or Officer performing deck or engine watchkeeping duties.

5. Marine Diesel Mechanics means a person authorized by the MARINA to operate and maintain the ship diesel engine/s on the qualification/license to act as such.
6. Fishing Vessel means a vessel exclusively used for catching fish, whales, seals, walrus or other living resources of the sea and excludes fish carriers.
7. Wooden Ships of Primitive Build refer to ships made of wood and provided with sails.
8. Domestic Waters — correspond to all waters within the Philippine territory.

#### IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. All seafarers serving onboard ships of at least 100 GT or with propulsion of at least 200 kW operating in domestic waters shall be properly certificated.
2. Application for the issuance of QDC and/or authentication must be personally filed and secured by the applicant. The application can be filed, for and on behalf of the seafarer while on board by the duly authorized representative of the company.
3. Promotion onboard requiring issuance of QDC may likewise be filed on behalf of the seafarer by the employer.
4. Applications shall be filed at the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Central Office or in any of its Maritime Regional Offices (MROs).
5. Certificates issued by the PRC or TESDA pursuant to the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended shall be acceptable onboard ships operating in the domestic waters.
6. Retraining shall be required of a holder of training certificates who has not served on board for at least a year within five (5) years from the date of issuance of certificate.
7. Issuance of QDC may indicate limitations as to vessel's tonnage/engine propulsion based on the seafarers sea service.
8. In meritorious cases, the MARINA may require equivalent or additional documents in the issuance of QDC.

#### V. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

##### A. DECK DEPARTMENT

1. Minimum Requirements for Officers and Ratings Serving Onboard Ships of Not Less than 100 GT

<u>Requirements</u>	<u>Officers</u>	-	<u>Ratings</u>
Age	• At least 20 years old		• At least 18 years old

Medical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified physically and medically fit particularly regarding good eyesight and hearing from a Department of Health (DOH) accredited hospital or clinic.*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified physically and medically fit particularly regarding good eyesight and hearing from a Department of Health (DOH) accredited hospital or clinic.*</li> </ul>
License/ Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRC License**</li> </ul>	
Training***	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Safety Course</li> <li>• Deck Watchkeeping Course (DWK) [for non-graduate of maritime courses]</li> <li>• Collision Regulation (for non-graduate of maritime courses)</li> <li>• ROC/SSROC, if applicable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Safety Course</li> <li>• Deck Watchkeeping Course (DWK) [for non-graduate of maritime courses]</li> </ul>
Sea Service		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have served on board ship of not less than 100 GT for at least six (6) months in deck department.</li> </ul>

\* In the absence of DOH-accredited medical examination centers in the regions, MARINA may accept the medical findings from a medical center/clinic or physician employed by the shipping company where the applicant-seafarer is employed.

\*\* To include Major Patron/Minor Patron

\*\*\* The training must have been taken from Maritime Training Council (MTC) accredited training centers.

## B. ENGINE DEPARTMENT

### 1. Minimum Requirements for Officers and Ratings Service Onboard Ships Powered by Main Propulsion Machinery of Not Less Than 200 kW Propulsion Power

Requirements	Officers	Ratings
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 20 years old</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 18 years old</li> </ul>
Medical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified physically and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified</li> </ul>