

**[ PRC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 99-47,  
August 31, 1999 ]**

**GUIDELINES IN THE RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATES  
PURSUANT TO REGULATION I/10 OF THE 1978 STCW  
CONVENTION, AS AMENDED**

**I. AUTHORITY**

Section 28, Article VI of Republic Act No. 8544, otherwise known as the "PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE OFFICERS ACT OF 1998", as implemented by Section 32, Article VIII, Resolution No. 1, series of 1999, of the Board of Marine Deck and Marine Engineer Officers, to comply with the requirements/standards of Regulation I/10 of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, to which the Philippines has acceded through the Instrument of Accession dated January 11, 1984.

**II. OBJECTIVE**

To ensure that the requirements of Regulation I/10 of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, and Republic Act No. 8544 are met when recognizing by endorsement in accordance with Regulation I/2 of the Convention the Certificates issued by or under the authority of another Party.

**III. COVERAGE**

This memorandum circular shall apply to Certificates issued by or under the authority of a Party to the Convention in accordance with the standards/requirements of the 1995 amendments.

**IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

1. *Board* — shall mean the Board of Marine Deck Officers or Board of Marine Engineer Officers.
2. *Commission* — shall mean the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) created under Presidential Decree No. 223.
3. *Certificate* — a document, by whatever name it may be known, issued by or under the authority of the national administration attesting or certifying to the authority of the marine deck or marine engineer officer named therein to serve in the capacity as stated in the document in accordance with national regulations.
4. *Certificate of Competency* — a document issued by the Board to a marine deck or marine engineer officer certifying that such marine officer has been found qualified to perform the functions of the level of responsibility involved on board the ship for which such officer has been examined and assessed and which shall attest to the

authority of the marine deck or marine engineer officer to practice the Merchant Marine profession in the capacity specified therein.

5. *Endorsement Certificate* — refers to the document issued by the Commission attesting the issue of Certificate of Competency to a marine deck or marine engineer officer or attesting the recognition of a Certificate issued by other Flag States in accordance with and upon compliance of all the relevant requirements of the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.

6. *Management level* — refers to the level of responsibility associated with:

(a) serving as Master, Chief Mate, Chief Engineer Officer or Second Engineer Officer on board a seagoing ship, and

(b) ensuring that all functions within the designated area of responsibility are properly performed.

7. *Operational level* — refers to the level of responsibility associated with:

(a) serving as officer-in-charge of a navigational or engineering watch, and

(b) maintaining direct control over the performance of all functions within the designated area of responsibility in accordance with proper procedures and under the direction and supervision of a merchant marine deck or marine engineer officer serving in the management level for that area of responsibility.

8. *STCW '95 Certificate* — means a certificate issued on or after 1 February 1997 in accordance with all applicable requirements of the Convention and the STCW Code, or a STCW '78 certificate duly endorsed after 1 February 1997 in accordance with Regulation I/11.

9. *STCW Convention* — means the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.

10. *Philippine Registered Ships* — merchant marine ships registered under Philippine laws.

11. *Foreign Marine Officer* — Certificated Marine Officers of other Flag Administrations who are Parties to the STCW Convention which complied with the 1995 amendments.

12. *Philippine Maritime Laws* — Laws enacted by Congress of the Republic of the Philippines pertaining to maritime relative activities and functions.

## V. POLICIES

1. An undertaking is agreed with the Party concerned that prompt notification will be given of any significant change in the arrangements for training and certification provided in compliance with the Convention.