

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 149, September 07, 1999]

FURTHER AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 396, SERIES OF 1997, ENTITLED "PROVIDING THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS IN THE PHILIPPINES"

WHEREAS , there is an urgent need to strengthen the institutional framework for the administration of the 1978 Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) Convention, as amended, in order to effectively implement the provisions of the Convention, thereby ensuring the compliance by the Filipino seafarers with the above standards;

WHEREAS , the status of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as the lead agency and the Administration for the implementation of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, has to be firmly and unequivocally established, affirming the government's commitment to the International maritime Organization;

WHEREAS , there is a need to clarify certain responsibilities of the Administration (MARINA) under international conventions in the light of Republic Act No. 8544 otherwise known as the "Philippine Merchant Marine Officers Act of 1998."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA , President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the amendment of Executive Order Nos. 396, as amended, providing for the institutional framework for the administration of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, in the Philippines.

SECTION 1. Administration for STCW . The MARINA shall continue to be the Administration for the implementation of the STCW Convention, as amended, and shall have the following obligations and responsibilities:

1. Communicate to the IMO and other concerned parties/agencies any supplemental information necessary, including subsequent amendments to its rules, regulations and/or procedures relative to the Philippine compliance with or implementation of the Convention;
2. Issue, jointly with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the endorsement attesting the issue of a certificate under the provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended in 1995, upon issuance of the certificates of competency by the PRC under Republic Act No. 8544. The prescribed Endorsement of Certificate form is attached as Annex "A";
3. Serve as the central repository of information relative to Regulation 1/9 of the Convention and maintain copies of the certificates of competency and its corresponding STCW endorsement;