

[MIA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 196, January 08, 2004]

**RULES ON THE INTRODUCTION OF RECLINING SEAT
ACCOMMODATION ON PASSENGER-CARRYING SHIPS IN THE
INTER-ISLAND TRADE**

Pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 474, Executive Order Nos. 125/125-A, the Public Service Act, as amended, Executive Order No. 185, Executive Order No. 213, Republic Act No. 7277, Batas Pambansa Blg. 344, and in consonance with Flag State Administration Advisory No. 49, the following rules on the introduction of reclining seat accommodation on passenger-carrying ships in the inter-island trade with more than four (4) hours of travel time are hereby adopted:

I. OBJECTIVES

1. To prescribe the rules in the introduction of a new/alternative type of accommodation; and,
2. To provide the ship operators/owners other opportunities for competition under a deregulated/liberalized regime.

II. COVERAGE

These Rules shall cover all passenger-carrying Philippine-registered ships engaged in domestic trade duly accredited by the Department of Tourism (DOT) with travel time of more than four (4) hours, except High Speed Crafts (HSC).

III. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of this Circular, the following terms are defined as follows:

1. Administration refers to the Maritime Industry Authority.
2. Certificate of Compliance (COC) refers to the document issued attesting to the ships' adherence to the Rules set for under this

Circular.

3. Primary Passageway refers to the space between clusters of seats wide enough to permit the passage of two (2) persons passing side by side at the same time.
4. Reclining Seat refers to the seat whose back rest can be lowered or reclined to at least 35 degrees.
5. Secondary Passageway refers to the space similar to a primary passageway but need only to permit convenient passage of one person.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. A passenger-carrying ship duly accredited by the DOT with travel time of more than four (4) hours may adopt this type of accommodation.
2. Air-conditioned accommodation with reclining seats may be introduced from existing second class accommodation and/or other spaces not presently utilized for passenger accommodation, provided they qualify with the prescribed standards under Rule VI of this Circular.
3. Prior submission and approval of Revised Passenger Accommodation Plan and other plans as stated in Rule IX.2.c and compliance with the minimum service standards under Rule VI hereof shall be required.
4. The COC to be issued under this Circular shall be harmonized with the validity of the COCs issued to the ship under Memorandum Circular Nos. 65/65-A and 150; and,
5. The applicant shall comply with Passenger Service Rating System prescribed under Memorandum Circular No. 125 and its amendments within sixty (60) days from issuance of COC.

V. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

1. The introduction of/conversion to reclining seat accommodation shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total capacity of the air-conditioned second class accommodation. However, this limitation shall not apply

to the conversion of unused spaces for this new type of accommodation.

2. The installation of reclining seats shall allow comfortable and adequate access to any part of the accommodation space. In particular, they should not obstruct access to or occupy space leading to essential or emergency equipment or required means of escape.
3. Reclining seats shall be designed to avoid injury to and trapping of occupants, particularly, in emergency conditions. Dangerous projections and hard/pointed edges should be eliminated.
4. The seats shall not be located near any operating equipment or machineries so as to avoid possible harm or injury to passengers.
5. The air-conditioned reclining seat accommodation shall be provided with primary passageway and a secondary passageway should there be more than two (2) clusters of seat to conveniently give the passengers access to their respective seats in a normal situation and egress during emergency situations.
6. The passageways shall be designed and arranged so as to protect the occupants from unfavorable environmental conditions and to prevent or minimize the risk of injury during normal and emergency conditions.
7. Exit doors, aisles and passageways shall be kept clear from any obstruction, at all times, during the whole duration of travel.
8. The air-conditioned accommodation with reclining seats shall have sufficient number of exits with markings/signs made of luminous/reflectorized material patch, which are suitable to facilitate the accessible, quick and unimpeded escape of passengers wearing approved-type lifejackets in emergency conditions.
9. The baggage or store and cargo compartments shall be adequately designed to prevent shifting of baggage. A system for storage and retrieval of passenger baggage shall be in place to avoid confusion of ownership.
10. Partial bulkheads or decks used to subdivide a space for utility or artistic treatment shall be of non-combustible material.
11. Base material used on exposed interior surfaces shall not be capable of producing excessive quantities of smoke

and toxic product.

VI. MINIMUM SERVICE STANDARDS

The herein adopted reclining seat accommodation in the Air-Conditioned Second Class Accommodation shall have the following minimum service standards:

Areas of Concern	Minimum Service Standards
Second Class Accommodation	
1. Ventilation	Air-conditioned
2. Type of accommodation	Properly constructed permanently fixed upholstered reclining seat
2.1. Deck Sheathing	Non-skid materials
2.2. Reclining seat dimension, fixture, and arrangement	
a. Seat Dimension	
1. Width	0.460 m.
2. Depth	0.450 m.
3. Height	0.450 m.
4. Height of back rest	0.74 m.
b. Fixtures	
1. Arm Rest	Must be provided
2. Foot Rest	Must be provided
c. Arrangement	Shall not exceed three (3) seats for each cluster
2.3. Degree of inclination of reclining seat from vertical position	35 degrees
2.4. Passageways	0.50 m. distance between rows (Measured from the front edge of the seat to the back rest of the seat next row in vertical position)

	0.92 m. distance of primary passageway
	0.45 m. distance of secondary passageway between column of seats
	2.5 Markings on seats
	Must be numbered
3. Number of passengers	Determined by the number of permanently fixed reclining seats
4. Toilet and Bath	
4.1 Number	One (1) separate toilet and bath for men and women per 80 passengers.
4.2 Location	Preferably at the same deck level of accommodation to be served.
4.3 Amenities	
a. Running water	Must be provided
b. Wash basin	Must be provided
c. Toiletries (Soap, toilet paper)	Must be provided
d. Hand grab	Must be provided
e. Covered trash can	Must be provided
5. Supplies	
5.1. Furniture/Fixtures	
a. Covered waste basket	Must be provided
b. PA System	Must be provided
c. Baggage or store and cargo compartment or both	Must be provided
5.2. Curtain for portholes / windows	Must be provided

VII. ONBOARD ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility posters on designated seats and places onboard ship for physically, visually, hearing, and mentally impaired