

**[ MIA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 127,  
February 18, 1998 ]**

**GUIDELINES ON THE ISSUANCE OF STCW ENDORSEMENT  
CERTIFICATES TO SEAFARERS PROMOTED OR TO BE PROMOTED  
ONBOARD SEAGOING SHIPS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1978  
STCW CONVENTION**

Pursuant to Section 12 (e) of Executive Order No. 125, as amended, and in consonance with the Philippines' accession to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) 1978, through the Instrument of Accession dated 11 January 1984 and pursuant further to Section 2, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution which states that the Philippines adopts the generally accepted principles of International Law as part of the law of the land, the following guidelines in the issuance of STCW Endorsement Certificates to seafarers promoted or to be onboard seagoing ships are hereby prescribed:

**I  
Objective**

To ensure that all seafarers promoted or to be promoted onboard are properly certificated, qualified, competent and medically fit for the proper performance of functions onboard seagoing ships, in accordance with the Convention.

**II  
Coverage:**

These guidelines shall apply to all Filipino seafarers promoted or to be promoted onboard seagoing ships covered under the Convention.

**III  
Definition of Terms**

For purposes of this Circular:

1. CONVENTION refers to the 1978 STCW Convention.
2. PROMOTION refers to the movement from one position to another with an increase in duties and responsibilities or position or rank while serving on board a seagoing ship that requires the issuance/change/upgrading of STCW Endorsement of Certificates/Rating's Certificate pursuant to the requirements of the Convention.
3. DISPENSATION refers to an authorization issued by the Flag Administration permitting a specified seafarer to serve in a specified ship for a specified period not exceeding six (6) months in a capacity for which he does not hold an appropriate

certificate, provided the person to whom the authorization is issued is adequately qualified to fill the vacant post in a safe manner.

4. SEAGOING SHIP refers to a ship other than those which navigate exclusively within Philippine waters.

#### **IV**

#### **General Provisions**

1. Seafarers promoted or to be promoted onboard seagoing ships shall be issued an STCW Endorsement of Certificates/Rating's Certificate valid until 31 January 2002 provided, however, that these seafarers meet the qualification requirements for the new position under Memorandum Circular No. 126.

2. Promotion onboard vessels shall be recorded accordingly in the Seafarer's Identification and Record Book (SIRB).

3. All other cases of upgrading of seafarers onboard seagoing ships not covered by this Memorandum Circular shall be treated as falling under Article VIII (Dispensation) of the Convention.

4. Failure to comply with the additional documentary requirements enumerated under Section V of this Circular shall render the seafarer ineligible for issuance under this Circular in which case he shall be required to personally file the application with MARINA pursuant to Memorandum Circular No. 126.

5. Anytime during the validity of the STCW Endorsement of Certificates/Rating's Certificate, the holder thereof may be required by MARINA to appear/report for personal evaluation where there is a reasonable ground or grounds to believe that there is a need for such evaluation so as to verify/ensure that he is indeed qualified, competent or medically fit for issuance of STCW Endorsement of Certificates.

#### **V**

#### **Procedure/Requirements**

1. An application for issuance of STCW Endorsement of Certificates/Rating's Certificate under this Circular may be filed by a duly authorized representative of the shipping company or local manning agency, for and in behalf of the seafarer.

2. The application shall be accompanied by the following documents for the new position:

2.1 a letter-application to be accomplished by the applicant-company;

2.2 a certified true copy of valid PRC and/or NTC license;

2.3 SIRB (one photocopy of pages one and two and all other pages reflecting sea service or any acceptable substitute documentary proof of sea service);

2.4 photocopy of each training certificate required;

2.5 a copy of the telex/fax or any form of written communication from the Master