

**Republic of the Philippines**  
**Department of Transportation and Communications**  
**MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY**  
**STCW OFFICE**

**STCW Circular No. 2015 - 05**

**TO : ALL SEAFARERS, MARITIME TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, SHIPPING COMPANIES, MANNING AGENCIES, PORT STATE CONTROL AUTHORITIES AND OTHER MARITIME INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR REFRESHER TRAINING ON**

- 1. PROFICIENCY IN SURVIVAL CRAFT AND RESCUE BOATS OTHER THAN FAST RESCUE BOATS (PSCRB)**
- 2. PROFICIENCY IN FAST RESCUE BOATS (PFRB)**
- 3. ADVANCED FIRE FIGHTING (AFF)**

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Pursuant to Republic Act No. 10635 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) and in compliance with Regulation I/11 paragraphs 4 and 5, Section A-VI/2 paragraphs 5 and 6, 11 and 12, Section A-VI/3 paragraphs 5 and 6 under the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW'78 Convention), as amended, the following rules are hereby adopted, to wit:

**1. OBJECTIVES**

- .1 To prescribe guidelines on the implementation of refresher training for:
  - .1.1 Proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats (PSCRB);
  - .1.2 Proficiency in Fast Rescue Boats (PFRB); and
  - .1.3 Advanced Fire Fighting (AFF);
- .2 Acceptance of onboard training and experience for maintaining the required standards of competence as defined in Regulation I/11 paragraphs 4 and 5, Section A-VI/2 paragraphs 5 and 6, 11 and 12, Section A-VI/3 paragraphs 5 and 6 under the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW'78 Convention), as amended; *and*
- .3 To ensure complete, effective and timely compliance with the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended.

## 2. COVERAGE

All seafarers applying for Revalidation of Certificate of Proficiency (COP) in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats, Fast Rescue Boats and Advanced Fire Fighting.

## 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purpose of this Circular, in addition to the terms defined under STCW Circular No. 2014-01 and other relevant STCW circulars, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- .1 **“Competence”** refers to a specific task, as identified in Column 1 of the Competency Tables of the STCW Code, or as otherwise specifically determined by the Administration;
- .2 **“Documentary evidence”** refers to documentation, other than a certificate of competency or certificate of proficiency, used to establish that the relevant requirements of the Convention have been met;
- .3 **“Revalidation”** refers to the renewal of a STCW Certificate to establish continued professional competence.
- .4 **“Standard of Competence”** means the level of proficiency to be achieved for the proper performance of functions on board ship in accordance with the internationally agreed criteria as set forth herein and incorporating prescribed standards or levels of knowledge, understanding and demonstrated skill;

## 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- .1 Only the MTIs with approved training programs for PSCRB, PFRB and AFF shall be allowed to conduct the Refresher Training.
- .2 The MTIs shall apply for the approval of Refresher training program for PSCRB, PFRB and/or AFF in accordance with MARINA Circular 2013-01 and its subsequent amendments.
- .3 The MTIs shall include in their entry requirement and enrolment procedures the evaluation of the seafarer’s document in accordance with the provisions of this circular.
- .4 MTIs shall offer and conduct Refresher training for PSCRB, PFRB and/or AFF only after the necessary approval has been granted by MARINA.

**5. SPECIFIC PROVISIONS**

**.1 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

.1.1 MTIs shall come up with their own training program for the Refresher training.

.1.2 The said refresher training programs shall consist of the following minimum components:

- .1.2.1 Course Framework;
- .1.2.2 Course Outline and Timetable;
- .1.2.3 Course Syllabus;
- .1.2.4 Instructor’s Guide; and
- .1.2.5 Course Assessment.

.2 The Refresher Training for PSCRB shall cover the required standard of competence as follows:

<b>Competence and Topics</b>	<b>Hours Allocated</b>
<b>Course Introduction/ Orientation</b>	
1. Take charge of a survival craft or rescue boat during and after launch 1.1 Right an inverted life raft while wearing a lifejacket	
2. Operate a survival craft engine 2.1 Start and operate an inboard engine fitted in an open and enclosed lifeboat	
3. Use locating devices including communication and signaling apparatus and pyrotechnics 3.1 Use signaling equipment, including pyrotechnics	
<b>Assessment</b>	
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>8.0</b>

.3 The Refresher Training for PFRB shall cover the required standard of competence as follows:

<b>Competence and Topics</b>	<b>Hours Allocated</b>
<b>Course Introduction/ Orientation</b>	
1. Understand the construction, maintenance, repair and outfitting of fast rescue boats	

<b>Competence and Topics</b>	<b>Hours Allocated</b>
2. Take charge of a fast rescue boat as commonly fitted, during launching and recovery 2.1 Conduct safe launching and recovery of a fast rescue boat, with equipment as fitted	
3. Take charge of a fast rescue boat after launching 3.1 Right a capsized rescue boat 3.2 swim in special equipment 3.3 recover a casualty from the water and transfer a casualty to a rescue helicopter or to a ship or to a place of safety	
4. Operate a fast rescue boat engine 4.1 start and operate a fast rescue boat engine	
<b>Assessment</b>	
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>8.0</b>

- .4 The Refresher Training for AFF shall cover the required standard of competence as follows:

<b>Competence and Topics</b>	<b>Hours Allocated</b>
<b>Course Introduction/ Orientation</b>	
1. Control fire-fighting operations aboard ships 1.1 Use of water for fire extinguishing , the effect on ship stability, precautions and corrective procedures 1.2 Fire fighting involving dangerous goods	
2. Organize and train fire parties 2.1 Preparation of contingency plans 2.2 Strategies and tactics for control of fires in various parts of the ship	
3. Inspect and service fire-detection and fire-extinguishing systems and equipment 3.1 Fire-detection systems 3.2 Fixed fire-extinguishing 3.3 Portable and mobile fire-extinguishing equipment including appliances, pumps and rescue, salvage, life-support, personal protective and communication equipment 3.4 Requirement for statutory and classification surveys	
<b>Assessment</b>	
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>8.0</b>

- .5 The Refresher training for PSCRB, PFRB and AFF, as provided above, shall have a minimum of hours indicated above, excluding the time needed for assessment of competence of participant seafarers / trainees thereof.
- .6 The MTIs must take note that the aforesaid numbers of training hours are the minimum and can be increased as may be necessary to cover other relevant topic(s) deemed appropriate to achieve the prescribed standards of competence under the STCW '78 Convention, as amended.
- .7 It shall also be the responsibility of the MTI to determine and set the number of hours needed for lecture and for practical training/exercises for each of these training programs, based on the specific standards of *Competence, Knowledge, Understanding and Proficiency (KUP)*, and the *Criteria for Evaluating Competence* under Table A-VI/2-1, Table A-VI/2-2, AND Table A-VI/3 of the STCW Code, respectively.

## 6. ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The MTI must have a documented system for assessment following the rules under MARINA Circular No. 2013-01 and its subsequent amendments, in relation to Section A-I/6 of the STCW Code.

## 7. ENTRY STANDARDS

- .1 Seafarer who shall undergo the Refresher training for PSCRB, PFRB and AFF must
  - .1.1 possess Certificate of Proficiency (COP) of PSCRB, PFRB and AFF;
  - .1.2 show, upon enrollment in an MTI, proof of approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
    - .1.2.1 twelve months in total during the preceeding five years, or
    - .1.2.2 three months in total during the preceeding six months immediately prior to revalidating.
- .2 Seafarers who have not acquired the minimum approved seagoing service performing functions appropriate to the certificate held and performed functions considered to be equivalent to the seagoing

service required and approved by the administrations, as mentioned in the preceding paragraphs shall be required to retake the course.

## **8. COMPLETION OF THE REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAM**

- .1 Trainees, who have successfully completed the Refresher Training and passed the assessment, shall be issued a Certificate of Completion certifying a holder's acquisition of the mandatory minimum requirements and competences as specified in
  - A. PSCRB, Section A-VI/2 paragraph 4 of the STCW Code,
  - B. PFRB, Section A-VI/2 paragraph 10 of the STCW Code, and
  - C. AFF, Section A-VI/3 paragraph 4 of the STCW Code
- .2 The format of such certificates shall be in accordance with **Annex I** of this Circular.

## **9. REVALIDATION OF CERTIFICATES**

- .1 For revalidation purposes, a seafarer needs to present to the Evaluator of the STCWO Certification Division the following documentary evidence:
  - .1.1 Certificate of Completion of Refresher Training;
  - .1.2 Previously held Certificate of Proficiency;
  - .1.3 Proof of approved seagoing service, performing functions appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least:
    - .1.3.1 twelve months in total during the preceding five years, or
    - .1.3.2 three months in total during the preceding six months immediately prior to revalidating.

## **10. PENALTY CLAUSE**

Any violation of the provisions of this Circular and other related MARINA issuances shall be governed and sanctioned by the provisions of the IRR for RA 10635 and MARINA Circular No. 2013 – 05 including any amendment or addendum thereof, as may be promulgated by the Administration.

**11. REPEALING CLAUSE**

Any provision of existing MARINA and STCW Circulars, rules and regulations, as well as all other Issuances which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Circular shall be deemed repealed and/or superseded accordingly.

**12. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

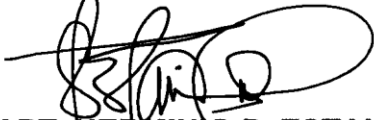
Should any provision or part of this Circular be declared by any competent authority to be invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts hereof shall remain in full force and effect shall continue to be valid and effective.

**13. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE**

This Circular shall take effect immediately on the day of its publication.

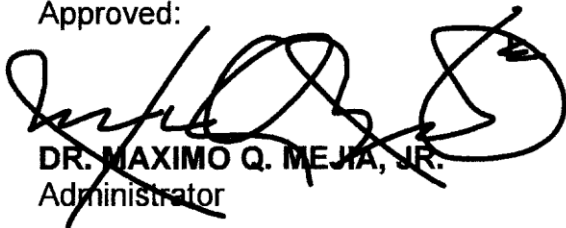
Manila, Philippines, 26 June 2015.

Submitted:



**CAPT. HERMINIO P. ESTANIEL JR.**  
OIC Executive Director

Approved:



**DR. MAXIMO Q. MEJIA, JR.**  
Administrator

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that STCW Circular No. 2015-05 was approved by the Administrator on 26 June 2015.



**ATTY. JABETH SENA JEPATH A. DACANAY**  
Deputy Executive Director