

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

STCW Circular No. 2016 – 04

**TO : ALL SEAFARERS, SHIPOWNERS, MANNING AGENCIES, MARITIME TRAINING INSTITUTIONS (MTIs), MARITIME HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (MHEIs), PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT CENTERS, PORT STATE CONTROL AUTHORITIES, OTHER ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR CERTIFICATION OF EXISTING ELECTRO-TECHNICAL OFFICER (ETO) AND ELECTRO-TECHNICAL RATING (ETR) UNDER REGULATION III/6 AND III/7 OF THE STCW '78 CONVENTION, AS AMENDED**

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Pursuant to Republic Act No. 10635, its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), the 1978 Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) for Seafarers, as amended, the following rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the transitional provisions for certification of existing seafarers who have served in a capacity relevant to the duties and responsibilities of Electro-Technical Officer (ETO) or Electro-technical Rating (ETR), are hereby issued:

#### **I. OBJECTIVES**

1. To implement the transitional arrangements based on Regulations III/6 and III/7 of the STCW '78 Convention, as amended for existing ETOs and ETRs; and
2. To prescribe the assessment of competence for certification of seafarers who have served in a capacity relevant to the duties and responsibilities of an ETO or ETR under the Transitory Provisions of Regulations III/6 and III/7 of the STCW Convention.

#### **II. COVERAGE**

This Circular covers the certification of existing seafarers who have served in a capacity relevant to the duties and responsibilities of an ETO and ETR under the Transitory Provisions of Regulations III/6 and III/7 of the STCW Convention.

#### **III. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

For purposes of this Circular, in addition to the terms defined under other existing STCW Circulars, and their subsequent amendments, the following terms are defined as follows:

1. **“Assessment”** refers to the process of evaluating evidence of competence through one or more of the methods of demonstrating competence (Column 3 of the tables) under the STCW Code;



2. **“Assessor”** refers to a qualified, competent and skilled person approved by the Administration, involved in the process of evaluating evidence of competence through one or more of the methods of demonstrating competence (Column 3 of the tables) under the STCW Code;
3. **“Company”** refers to the owner of the ship or any organization or person such as the manager, or the bareboat charterer, who has assumed the responsibility for operation of the ship from the shipowner and who, on assuming such responsibility, has agreed to take over all the duties and responsibilities imposed on the company by the STCW Convention, as amended;
4. **“MARINA License”** refers the professional identification card issued by the Administration to Filipino merchant marine officers;
5. **“Month”** – refers to a calendar month or 30 days made up of periods of less than one month. For purposes of complying with the required seagoing service, one month shall be equivalent to 30 days;
6. **“Seagoing Service”** – refers to the service on board a ship relevant to the issue or revalidation of a certificate or other qualification in accordance with the STCW Convention, as amended;
7. **“Standard of competence”** refers to the minimum knowledge, understanding and proficiency, as listed in the relevant Column of the STCW Competency Tables, which a seafarer must be able to demonstrate to be entitled to certification, to the satisfaction of the Administration;

#### IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Only seafarers who meet the required seagoing service in the said relevant capacity may apply for certification subject to compliance with the specific requirements and passing an assessment as provided in this Circular.
2. A candidate for certification who complied with all the requirements including passing an assessment provided herein shall be qualified for issuance of the appropriate STCW certificate and a professional seafarer's identification card in the form of a MARINA license for ETOs

#### V. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS CERTIFICATION AS ETO

##### 1. Seagoing Service –

- 1.1. Seagoing service in the following capacity or position on seagoing ships powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW propulsion power or more shall be considered relevant to the tasks, duties and responsibilities of an ETO for certification purposes:
  - 1.1.1. Electro-Technical Officer; or
  - 1.1.2. Chief Electrician; or
  - 1.1.3. Senior Electrician; or
  - 1.1.4. Electrician; or



1.1.5. Electrical Officer; or

1.1.6. Electrical Engineer; or

1.1.7. Electronics Engineer; or

1.1.8. Electro-Engineer; or

1.1.9. Instrumentation Engineer; or

1.1.10. Other *relevant capacity or position* supported by:

- certified true copy of the company's Quality Assurance Manual indicating the duties and responsibilities of such capacity or position; or
- crew list; or
- job description attested by the company.

1.2. Existing seafarers who intend to be certificated as **ETO** under the above-mentioned STCW provisions shall have not less than **12 months** of seagoing service in any of the aforesaid capacity or position within the last 60 months or five (5) years prior to **31 December 2016**.

## 2. Assessment –

2.1. Existing seafarers who meet the required seagoing service under **section V, item 1** above shall qualify to take and pass the practical assessment approved by the Administration.

2.2. The assessment shall consist of two (2) practical questions or scenarios as follows:

2.2.1. One (1) practical question or scenario on **Electrical and Electronic Systems**; and

2.2.2. One (1) practical question or scenario on **Automation and Control Technology**.

2.3. The candidate for certification shall be required to answer correctly both the two (2) practical questions/scenarios to pass the assessment.

2.4. A candidate who fails in any of the practical assessment scenarios for 3 times, shall not be allowed to apply for re-sit, and shall be required to take the approved ETO training program.

### 3. Application for Certification as ETO –

3.1. A candidate who satisfactorily pass the assessment required under **section V, item 2** shall be allowed to apply for issuance of **Certificate of Competency (COC) as ETO**.

3.2. The application of certification shall be supported by the following:

3.2.1. Seafarer's Identification and Record Book (SIRB);

3.2.2. Certificate of seagoing service from the company which shall clearly indicate the following:

- "Capacity or Position" and the "ship's kW propulsion power" as required under section V, item 1.1 above;
- "Length of seagoing service" in such capacity as required under section V, item 1.2 above; *and*
- An attestation that the candidate seafarer has gained ***at least six (6) months of seagoing service*** on a seagoing ship powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW propulsion power or more that ***has power system operating in excess of 1,000 volts***;

3.2.3. Certificate of passing the assessment required under **section V, item 2** above;

3.2.4. Valid Certificate of Proficiency (COP) on the following:

- Basic Training;
- Ship Security Awareness and Seafarers with Designated Security Duties;
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats;
- Advanced Fire Fighting;
- Medical First Aid; and

3.2.5. Valid Medical Certificate in Pre-employment Medical Examination (PEME) format.

3.3. *Seafarers who do not meet the required seagoing service on a seagoing ship that has power system operating in excess of 1,000 volts* shall be issued a ***"COC as ETO with limitation on ships that has power system operating in excess of 1,000 volts"***.

3.4. The said limitation may be removed if the seafarer can present a Certificate of Completion of ***"Module 9 – Marine High Voltage"*** under Cluster 2 of the ETO training program approved the Administration.

3.5. **Seafarers who meet the required seagoing service** under the above transitional provisions **but are still currently on board** shall be given until



31 December 2017 to take the assessment required under **section V, item 2** above and complete all other requirements to be issued COC as ETO.

- 3.6. **Seafarers who only have 6 to 11 months of the required seagoing service under section V, item 1** above shall be allowed to take and pass the assessment required under **section V, item 2** herein. Thereafter, such seafarers will be allowed to serve on board to complete the required seagoing service until 31 December 2016 only. Upon completing the required seagoing service within the said period, such seafarers may file their application for issuance of COC as ETO through their company's Liaison Officer (LO). Failure to complete the required seagoing service before 31 December 2016 shall render the result of assessment null and void.

## **VI. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS CERTIFICATION AS ETR**

### **1. Seagoing Service –**

- 1.1. Seagoing service in the following capacity or position on seagoing ships powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW propulsion power or more shall be considered relevant to the tasks, duties and responsibilities of an ETR for certification purposes:
- 1.1.1. Assistant Electrician, or
  - 1.1.2. Assistant ETO, or
  - 1.1.3. Instrumentation Technician; or
  - 1.1.4. Electrical Technician; or
  - 1.1.5. Electrical fitter, or
  - 1.1.6. Electro-Cadet, or
  - 1.1.7. Electrical Trainee, or
  - 1.1.8. Electrician trainee, or
  - 1.1.9. Apprentice Electrician, or
  - 1.1.10. Other *relevant capacity or position* supported by:
    - 1.1.10.1. certified true copy of the company's Quality Assurance Manual indicating the duties and responsibilities of such capacity or position; or
    - 1.1.10.2. crew list; or
    - 1.1.10.3. job description attested by the company.
- 1.2. Existing seafarers who intend to be certificated as **ETR** under the above-mentioned STCW provisions shall have not less than **12 months** of seagoing service in any of the aforesaid capacity or position within the last 60 months or five (5) years prior to **31 December 2016**.

## 2. Assessment –

- 2.1. Existing seafarers who meet the required seagoing service under **section VI, item 1** above shall qualify to take and pass the practical assessment approved by the Administration.
- 2.2. The assessment shall consist of two (2) practical questions or scenarios as follows:
  - 2.2.1. One (1) practical question or scenario on **Electrical and Electronic Systems at the support level**; and
  - 2.2.2. One (1) practical question or scenario on **Automation and Control Technology at the support level**.
- 2.3. The candidate for certification shall be required to answer correctly both the two (2) practical questions/scenarios **to the satisfaction of the accredited Assessor by the Administration** in order to satisfactorily pass the assessment. Assessors must be in possession of the level of endorsement, or other professional credential, which provides proof that he has attained a level of experience and qualification equal or superior to the relevant level of knowledge, skills, and abilities to be assessed.
- 2.4. A candidate who fails in any of the practical assessment scenarios for 3 times, shall not be allowed to apply for re-sit, and shall be required to take the approved ETR training program. Thereafter, the candidate shall be required to take and pass the full ETR assessment.

## 3. Application for Certification as ETR –

- 3.1. A candidate who satisfactorily passed the assessment required under **section VI, item 2** above shall be allowed to apply for issuance of **Certificate of Proficiency (COP) as ETR**.
- 3.2. The application of certification shall be supported by the following:
  - 3.2.1. Seafarer's Identification and Record Book (SIRB);
  - 3.2.2. Certificate of seagoing service from the company clearly indicating the following:
    - "Capacity or Position" and the "ship's kW propulsion power" as required under section VI, item 1.1 above; and
    - "Length of seagoing service" in such capacity as required under section VI, item 1.2 above;
    - Valid Certificate of Proficiency (COP) in:
      - Basic Training; and
      - Ship Security Awareness and Seafarers with Designated Security Duties;



3.3. **Seafarers who meet the required seagoing service** under the above transitional provisions **but are still currently on board** shall be given until 31 December 2017 to take the assessment required under **section VI, item 2** above and complete all other requirements to be issued **COP as ETR**.

3.4. **Seafarers who only have 6 to 11 months of the required seagoing service under section VI, item 1** above shall be allowed to take and pass the assessment required under **section VI, item 2** herein. Thereafter, such seafarers will be allowed to serve on board to complete the required seagoing service until 31 December 2016 only. Upon completing the required seagoing service within the said period, such seafarers may file their application for issuance of **COP as ETR** through their company's Liaison Officer (LO). Failure to complete the required seagoing service before 31 Decembers 2016 shall render the result of assessment null and void.

## **VII. 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.

## **VIII. REPEALING CLAUSE**

Any provision of existing MARINA and STCW circulars, rules and regulations, or of any other Philippine government agency related to education, training, examination, assessment, licensing and certification of ETO or ETR on ships of 750kW or more, which are contrary or inconsistent with this circular are hereby superseded, repealed or amended accordingly.

## **IX. 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 and shall continue to be valid and effective.

## **X. EFFECTIVITY:**

This STCW Circular takes effect immediately on the day of its publication.

Manila, Philippines, 14 April 2016.

Submitted:



**HERMINIO PASCUAL P. ESTANIEL, JR., MM**  
Executive Director, STCW Office

Approved:



**DR MAXIMO Q MEJIA, JR**  
Administrator

### CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that STCW Circular No. 2016-04 was approved by the Administrator on **14 April 2016**.



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