



JOINT CIRCULAR NO. 01-A

Series of 2020

30 September 2020

Amendments to the Guidelines for the Establishment of the Philippine Green Lane to Facilitate the Speedy and Safe Travel of Seafarers, Including their Safe and Swift Disembarkation, and Crew Change During the COVID-19 Pandemic

WHEREAS, the Joint Circular No. 01 (series of 2020) entitled “Guidelines for the Establishment of the Philippine Green Lane to Facilitate the Speedy and Safe Travel of Seafarers, Including their Safe and Swift Disembarkation, and Crew Change During the COVID-19 Pandemic” was adopted and made effective on 02 July 2020;

WHEREAS, recent policy changes require the amendment of the Joint Circular No. 01 to ensure its efficient implementation and facilitate the safe travel and turnover of seafarers in the Philippines;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Bureau of Immigration (BI); the Department Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA); the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) and the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA); the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG); the Department of Health (DOH) and the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth); the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG); and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) have agreed to implement and execute the following Amendment to Joint Circular No. 01 (series of 2020) or the Guidelines for the Establishment of the Philippine Green Lane to Facilitate the Speedy and Safe Travel of Seafarers, Including their Safe and Swift Disembarkation, and Crew Change During the COVID-19 Pandemic.



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Section 1. Section IX is hereby amended to read as follows:

IX. GUIDELINES FOR FOREIGN SEAFARERS LEAVING A SHIP DOCKED IN PHILIPPINE SEAPORT TO AN AIRPORT IN THE PHILIPPINES (Ship to Airport)

1. Foreign seafarers shall be allowed to leave a ship docked in the Philippine seaport for the purpose of boarding an aircraft in Philippine airports, provided the following are complied with:
 - a. The foreign seafarer does not exhibit any sign or symptom of COVID-19 and must have a daily record of body temperature for the last seven (7) days;
 - b. The foreign seafarer has a confirmed outbound flight within four (4) hours from disembarking from the ship;
 - c. The foreign seafarer shall, from the ship, proceed directly to the airport, and may not leave the same upon arrival; and
 - d. The foreign seafarer shall not be allowed to stay anywhere else in the Philippines outside the airport or ship.
2. The licensed manning agency, shipping principal or agents of the foreign seafarer shall identify the foreign seafarers who will be signing off ships and submit the list to the respective government agencies having supervision and regulation over authorized international gateways.
3. The foreign seafarer must comply with the respective disembarkation protocols of the PPA, BOQ, PCG, BOC and BI at the Philippine seaport. For this purpose, the foreign seafarer must possess a valid 9(c) Philippine-issued visa. This is without prejudice to the right of the Philippine Government to the conduct of (a) confirmatory and random testing; (b) re-testing when the seafarer has undergone a lengthy stopover in another jurisdiction exceeding forty eight (48) hours in another jurisdiction; or (c) re-testing when there are apparent symptoms or signs of possible infection upon arrival in the Philippines.
4. The licensed manning agency, shipping principal or agents of the foreign seafarer may submit to the DFA a written request for exemption from the Temporary Suspension of Visa Issuance, pursuant to Foreign Service Circular No. 29-2020 dated 19 March 2020, as amended. Once the written request is approved by the DFA, the DFA shall authorize the concerned Foreign Service Post to issue the visa and the foreign seafarer, his/her authorized representative or licensed manning agency, may apply for 9(c) visas at the Philippines' various Foreign Service Posts.
5. For foreign seafarers who are already on board ships docked at Philippine seaports prior to the effectivity of this Joint Circular, the licensed manning agency, shipping principal or their agents of the foreign seafarer should submit to the DFA a written request for exemption from the Temporary Suspension of Visa Issuance, pursuant to Foreign Service Circular No. 29-

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2020 dated 19 March 2020, as amended, at least three (3) working days before the outbound flight of the seafarer. Once the written request is approved by the DFA, the DFA shall advise the BI of the exemption.

6. The licensed manning agency, shipping principal or agents of the foreign seafarer shall provide for the land transportation of the foreign seafarer from the ship to the airport, within four (4) hours from leaving the ship.
7. In case the foreign seafarer has, for any other reason, not been able to pursue his/her flight within four (4) hours from leaving the ship, he/she shall be subjected to the same health and quarantine protocols as with inbound Filipino seafarers, *i.e.* required to undergo RT-PCR testing and quarantine, the cost of which, including meals and accommodation in a DOH-accredited facility, to be borne by the licensed manning agencies or their agents.
8. Upon arrival at the airport, the foreign seafarer shall comply with the requirements for immigration and customs clearances, using the special lane for seafarers at the airport.
9. Should the foreign seafarer be required by the receiving state to undergo COVID-19 testing and said testing can only be done at a separate facility outside of the vessel the seafarer is on, he may be allowed to disembark the vessel and stay at a DOH-accredited facility/hotel provided the following are complied with:
 - a. The foreign seafarer does not exhibit any sign or symptom of COVID-19 and must have a daily record of body temperature for the last seven (7) days;
 - b. The licensed manning agency, shipping principal or agents of the foreign seafarer shall cover the costs of accommodation, meals and transportation costs;
 - c. The foreign seafarers are to stay and remain at the DOH-accredited facility/hotel and may only leave for the purpose of undergoing a COVID-19 test or proceeding to the airport for their flight;
 - d. The licensed manning agency, shipping principal or agents of the foreign seafarer shall ensure that all necessary actions are taken to facilitate their COVID-19 tests and flights in an expeditious manner so as not to prolong their stay at the DOH-accredited facility/hotel.
10. In case of emergencies, the licensed manning agency, shipping principal or agents of the foreign seafarer should, in line with their obligations, ensure the foreign seafarer's access to adequate medical care, including emergency medical equipment, to prevent any outbreak while awaiting repatriation. For this purpose, the BOQ, shall identify the appropriate isolation facility for the foreign seafarer.

Section 2. Section X is hereby amended to read as follows:

X. GUIDELINES FOR FOREIGN SEAFARERS TRANSITING IN THE PHILIPPINES (Airport/Terminal to Airport/Terminal)

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1. Foreign seafarers shall be allowed to disembark from an aircraft arriving in the Philippines for the purpose of transiting to another country through another aircraft also in the Philippines, provided the following are complied with:

- a. The foreign seafarer does not exhibit any sign or symptom of COVID-19;
- b. The foreign seafarer transiting to another terminal within the same airport complex shall be allowed, provided that such transfer shall only be done airside by the concerned airline company and shall, from the airport of origin, proceed directly to the destination terminal, within six (6) hours from arrival, and may not leave the same upon embarkation.

Should the foreign seafarer pass through immigration counters for purposes of transit in the same airport complex, he/she shall be subjected to the same health and quarantine protocols as with inbound Filipino seafarers, *i.e.*, required to undergo RT-PCR testing and quarantine, the cost of which, including meals and accommodation in a DOH-accredited facility/hotel, to be borne by the licensed manning agencies. For this purpose, the foreign seafarer must possess an appropriate valid Philippine-issued visa;

- c. The foreign seafarer transiting from the arrival airport to another departure airport shall be allowed to proceed directly to such destination/departure airport, within six (6) hours from arrival; and
 - d. The foreign seafarer shall not be allowed to stay anywhere else in the Philippines outside the airport.
2. The licensed manning agency, shipping principal or agents of the foreign seafarer shall identify the foreign seafarers arriving in the aircraft and submit the list to the respective government agencies having supervision and regulation over authorized international gateways at least three (3) working days prior to the intended date of arrival.
3. The foreign seafarer arriving in an international airport and will be travelling on a domestic flight to join a vessel on berth or at anchor shall remain in the airport to connect his/her flight. Should the airport terminal be changed for the connecting flight of the foreign seafarer, the licensed manning agencies, shipping principal or their agents shall arrange for the transport of the foreign seafarer, if no transfer bus is available.
4. The licensed manning agency, shipping principal or agents of the foreign seafarer shall provide for the land transportation of the foreign seafarer to the destination airport and should directly transport him/her within six (6) hours from arrival.
5. In case the foreign seafarer has, for any other reason, not been able to pursue his/her flight within six (6) hours from arrival, he/she shall be subjected to the same health and quarantine protocols as with inbound Filipino seafarers, *i.e.* required to undergo RT-PCR testing and

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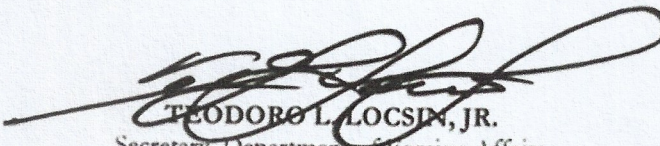
quarantine, the cost of which, including meals and accommodation in a DOH-accredited facility, to be borne by the licensed manning agencies.

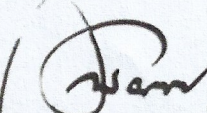
6. Upon arrival at the airport, the foreign seafarer shall comply with the requirements for immigration and customs clearances, using the special lane for seafarers at the airport.
7. In case of emergencies, the licensed manning agency, shipping principal or agents of the foreign seafarer should, in line with their obligations, ensure the foreign seafarer's access to adequate medical care, including emergency medical equipment, to prevent any outbreak while awaiting repatriation. For this purpose, the BOQ, shall identify the appropriate isolation facility for the foreign seafarer.

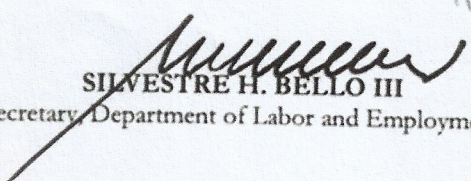
Section 3. Amendments to the Joint Circular No. 01 (series of 2020) may be approved *ad referendum* by the duly appointed representatives of the agencies which are signatories to the said Joint Circular.

Section 4. This Joint Circular No. 01-A shall take effect on 30 September 2020 until repealed. All Department Orders, Circulars and implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with this Joint Circular No. 01 are hereby repeated or amended accordingly.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 30 September 2020, Philippines.


TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR.
Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs

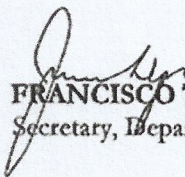

MENARDO I. GUEVARRA
Secretary, Department of Justice


SILVESTRE H. BELLO III
Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment

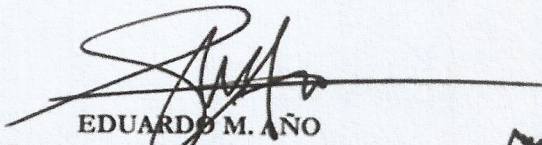
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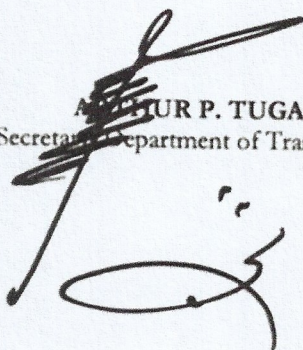
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Conforme:



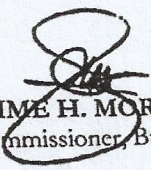
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NEIL FRANK R. FERRER

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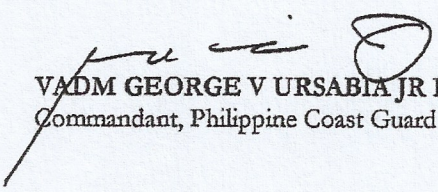
JAIME H. MORENTE

Commissioner, Bureau of Immigration



DR. FERDINAND S. SALCEDO

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Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard



VADM ROBERT ARUGAY EMPEDRAD

Administrator, Maritime Industry Authority



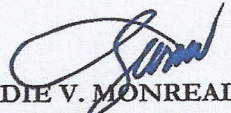
JAY DANIEL R. SANTIAGO

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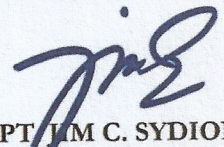
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