

SEAGOING SERVICE REQUIREMENT TO TAKE THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND ISSUANCE OF STCW '95 CERTIFICATES FOR CHIEF MATE AND SECOND ENGINEER OFFICER

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WHEREAS, the Boards for Marine Deck and Engineer Officers (Boards) of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), in their respective current rules and regulations implementing Republic Act No. 8544, otherwise known as the “Philippine Merchant Marine Officers Act of 1998,” require at least twelve (12) months seagoing service for holders of Certificate of Registration/License as Officer-in-Charge of a Watch and twenty four (24) months seagoing service for holders of Certificate of Registration/License as Third and Second Mate for marine deck officers, and Fourth and Third Engineer Officers for marine engineer officers, in order to qualify them to take the licensure examination and the corresponding issuance of STCW '95 Certificates for Chief Mate or Second Engineer Officer, respectively.

WHEREAS, the Boards issued Resolution No. 08-02 which allowed a single licensure examination for the Management Level officers as a positive and a proactive solution to the global shortage of officers in the Management Level.

WHEREAS, the minimum standards of competence under Regulations II/2 and III/2 of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, require only twelve (12) months seagoing service for the issuance of STCW '95 Certificates for Chief Mate and Second Engineer Officer.

WHEREAS, in order to have a uniform seagoing service requirement to take the licensure examination and issuance of STCW '95 Certificates for Chief Mate and Second Engineer Officer and so as not to be unfair for qualified, deserving and competent marine officers to require a twenty four (24) months seagoing service and hold them for another year in order for them to take the licensure examination and issued the STCW '95 Certificates, and eventually be employed to the next higher rank only for the simple reason that they lack additional 12 months seagoing service, it becomes imperative that only 12 months seagoing service shall be required.

WHEREAS, a stringent requirement of requiring twenty four (24) months seagoing service would definitely work to the disadvantage of the marine officers, is against labor and economic policy for employment of the government and is contrary to their positive and a proactive solution to the global shortage of officers in the Management Level as embodied in the aforementioned Resolution No. 08-02.

WHEREAS, it is the stakeholders who decide through their own system of evaluation and selection, as to the level of skills and competence required for their employment, provided they qualify with the minimum standards of competence under the STCW Convention.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council, as the agency responsible in giving full and complete effect to the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, RESOLVES to direct the Boards of Marine Deck and Marine Engineer Officers of the Professional Regulation Commission that only twelve (12) months seagoing service shall be required of an Officer-in-Charge of a Navigational Watch and an Officer-in-Charge of an Engineering Watch to qualify him to take the licensure examination and for the issuance of STCW '95 Certificates for Chief Mate or Second Engineer

Officer, respectively.

This Resolution supersedes any previous issuance to the contrary and shall take effect immediately.

Let copies of this Resolution be furnished the U.P. Law Center and published in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general nationwide circulation.

Adopted: 27 Nov. 2009

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