



JOINT CIRCULAR NO. 1
 Series of 2020
 02 July 2020

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 spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) throughout the world has resulted in lockdown measures across the globe, including the Philippines;

WHEREAS, on June 01, 2020, the President placed the National Capital Region (NCR) under General Community Quarantine and most of the Philippines under Modified General Community Quarantine;

WHEREAS, under Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) Resolution No. 36, recruitment and deployment agencies in areas under General Community Quarantine and Modified Community Quarantine are allowed to operate, subject to applicable regulatory compliance;

WHEREAS, eighty percent (80%) of global trade is moved by maritime transport, and said maritime transport is dependent on seafarers, with the Philippines as the country with the single largest number of seafarers serving the world’s merchant and cruise fleets;

WHEREAS, seafarers, regardless of nationality, are key workers providing essential services and who should be accorded the right to safe passage, including the right to embark and disembark in third countries when in transit, and the right to be repatriated and to return home;

WHEREAS, there is a need to facilitate the safe travel of seafarers, including the safe turnover of ship crew and other ship crew changes, while ensuring that effective measures are implemented in order to minimize the risks of COVID-19 infection;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Government has released various guidelines related to the procedures which may be undertaken for the crew change and repatriation of seafarers, including but not limited to the Protocol of the Philippines on Crew Change and Repatriation of Seafarers issued by the Department of Transportation (the “DOTr Protocol”), the Omnibus Interim Guidelines for the Quarantine and Testing Procedures for All Arriving Overseas Filipinos and Foreign Nationals During the COVID-19 Pandemic (the “Omnibus Interim Guidelines”), and the relevant issuances of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases;



WHEREAS, the Philippines, as a member state of both the International Maritime Organization and International Labor Organization, is enjoined to implement the protocols of both organizations, including the IMO-ICAO¹-ILO Joint Statement, and Information Note on Maritime Labour Issues and COVID-19;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipino Act of 1995 and its amendatory laws, the Philippine Government shall allow the deployment of overseas Filipino workers to vessels navigating the foreign seas or to installations located offshore or on high seas whose owners/employers are compliant with international laws and standards that protect the rights of migrant workers;

WHEREAS, considering that the Philippines is a major source of seafarers working on the merchant and cruise ships requiring assistance to facilitate the safe travel and turnover of its crew, the creation of a Guidelines to operationalize the Philippine Green Lane for Seafarers is necessary;

WHEREAS, this Joint Circular on the Philippine Green Lane for Seafarers outlines the minimum standards and procedures which shall be observed by all seafarers, shipping companies (ship operators and ship owners), licensed manning agencies, airlines, and all other similar entities involved in the process of facilitating travel for the purpose of ship crew changes and repatriation;

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 Guidelines which shall apply to all seafarers, shipping companies (ship operators and ship owners), licensed manning agencies, airlines, and all other similar entities involved in the process of facilitating the safe travel of seafarers, and the safe turnover of ship crew and other ship crew changes.

I. COVERAGE

1. This Joint Circular shall apply to all seafarers, shipping companies (ship operators and ship owners), licensed manning agencies, airlines, and all other similar entities involved in the process of facilitating the safe travel of seafarers, and the safe turnover of ship crew and other ship crew changes;
2. This Joint Circular applies to the following situations with respect to inbound and outbound movement of seafarers:
 - a. Filipino Seafarers Joining a Ship Docked in the Philippines or Overseas (Outbound)
 - b. Filipino Seafarers Leaving a Ship (Inbound)
 - c. Filipino Seafarers Transiting in the Philippines (Airport/Terminal to Airport/Terminal)
 - d. Foreign Seafarers Joining a Ship Docked in the Philippine Seaport from the Airport (Airport to Ship)
 - e. Foreign Seafarers Leaving a Ship Docked in Philippine Seaport to an Airport (Ship to Airport)
 - f. Foreign Seafarers Transiting in the Philippines (Airport/Terminal to Airport/Terminal)
3. This Joint Circular does not cover the following situations:

¹ International Civil Aviation Organization

- a. Ships, vessels or aircrafts with contact/trace of COVID-19 positive cases, in which case the procedure for Stringent Quarantine under the Omnibus Interim Guidelines shall apply; and
 - b. When seafarers belong to a vessel used as quarantine facilities, or are part of a repatriating crew, in which case the procedure under the Omnibus Interim Guidelines and Republic Act No. 9271 or the Quarantine Act of 2004 shall apply, as appropriate.
4. Other issuances not inconsistent with this Joint Circular may apply suppletorily.

II. THE PHILIPPINE GREEN LANE FOR SEAFARERS

The Government hereby creates the “Philippine Green Lane” to:

- a. ensure that seafarers are accorded speedy and safe travel, subject to health protocols mandated by the Philippine Government, including their safe and swift disembarkation and crew change during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- b. facilitate the creation of controlled travel corridor to open the Philippines for people-to-people and economic exchange and stimulate the Philippine economy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- c. control the risk of spreading the coronavirus during crew change or repatriation by managing the movement of seafarers travelling by ship or plane.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SEAFARER AND THE LICENSED MANNING AGENCY OR SHIPPING PRINCIPAL OR THEIR AGENTS

1. The seafarer, licensed manning agency or shipping principal or their agents shall ensure compliance with all the embarkation and disembarkation protocols stated in this Joint Circular and in other related issuances by the Philippine Government.
2. The licensed manning agency or shipping principal or their agents of the Filipino seafarer shall be responsible for the following:
 - a. ensuring that all the necessary documents and clearances are complete (i.e. Letter from the Principal, Declaration signifying seafarer’s knowledge and understanding of risks involved, Employment Contract, POEA-issued Overseas Employment Certificate, Passport, Seafarer Identity Document and/or Seafarer Record Book, Valid Seafarer Certificates (COPs, COCs and medical certificate), Valid Medical Clearance for COVID-19, and Other Pre-Departure and/or Travel Documents) and submitting the same within twenty four (24) hours prior to the deadline or intended date of arrival or disembarkation, as the case may be;
 - b. coordinating with the concerned government agencies and local government units;
 - c. providing for the appropriate COVID-19 testing to its seafarers, as well as meals, accommodation, and transportation from the point of hire to intended destination, as conditions require, provided that, in the case of inbound and repatriated Filipino seafarers, the cost of the RT-PCR testing shall be charged to the PhilHealth;
 - d. providing for COVID-19 testing to outbound Filipino seafarers, as required under existing guidelines;

- e. coordinating with the relevant medical facility for the provision of appropriate treatment to seafarers who may test positive of COVID-19;
 - f. providing for emergency medical equipment in the seaport or airport upon arrival or departure of the seafarer, regardless of nationality, in emergency situations; and
 - g. providing appropriate briefings to their seafarers about COVID-19 and various precautionary measures and health-related protocols mandated by the Philippine Government.
3. Nothing in this Joint Circular shall prevent any private shipping owner, licensed manning agencies, or their agents, and all other similar entities from sharing any information to the Philippine Government which may be deemed necessary for the efficient implementation of this Joint Circular, or to ensure the health and safety of all seafarers.
 4. All seafarers and maritime personnel involved in crew change and repatriation, regardless of nationality, shall wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and observe proper hygiene and health protocols issued by the Philippine Government.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT

1. The relevant National Government Agencies shall assist seafarers, regardless of nationality, in embarking or disembarking from ships or aircrafts for the purpose of crew change or repatriation.
2. The relevant National Government Agencies shall develop, if so warranted, appropriate guidelines to supplement this Joint Circular with the aim of improving the green lane process for seafarers.
3. The POEA shall facilitate deployments by providing online service facilities and other mechanisms that will ensure smooth and efficient processing and documentation of Filipino seafarers.
4. The respective government agencies having supervision and regulation over authorized international gateways, in coordination with the BOQ, PCG and CAAP, shall enhance its capacity to have RT-PCR testing facilities and laboratories for seafarers, or shall partner with an accredited entity that could provide these facilities, and to designate a special testing lane for them, with the costs of the appropriate COVID-19 testing to be borne by the either the licensed manning agencies or PhilHealth, as the case may be.
5. The respective government agencies having supervision and regulation over authorized international gateways, in coordination with the BI, shall designate a special pathway in airports and seaports where seafarers may pass through check-in, security, customs, immigration and border control that minimizes contact with airport and seaport personnel, and other passengers/seafarers.
6. The respective government agencies having supervision and regulation over authorized international gateways are enjoined to afford appropriate and non-discriminatory treatment of seafarers and, in the case of airports, designate an area where seafarers will be seated.
7. The DFA and the BI may relax or exempt Filipino seafarers from any requirements that might normally apply related to the minimum remaining validity of passports prior to travel, in recognition of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the availability of flights and on the operations of DFA's consular offices in the Philippines and overseas.

The DFA's Office of Consular Affairs may dispatch special mobile passporting teams to facilitate passport extensions and renewals at NAIA and at the Mactan International Airport or at other

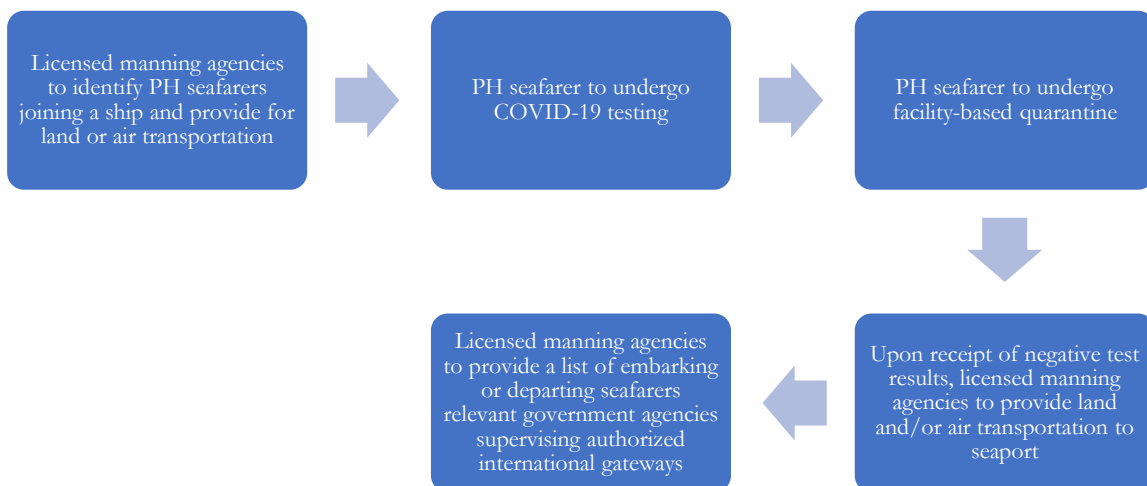
relevant ports, if necessary, with proper support from and coordination with other concerned agencies.

8. The DILG shall coordinate with the local government units to ensure that they will accept the RT-PCR test result as sufficient basis for the concerned seafarer to return to his/her place of residence without delay.

V. GUIDELINES FOR FILIPINO SEAFARERS JOINING A SHIP DOCKED IN THE PHILIPPINES OR OVERSEAS (OUTBOUND)

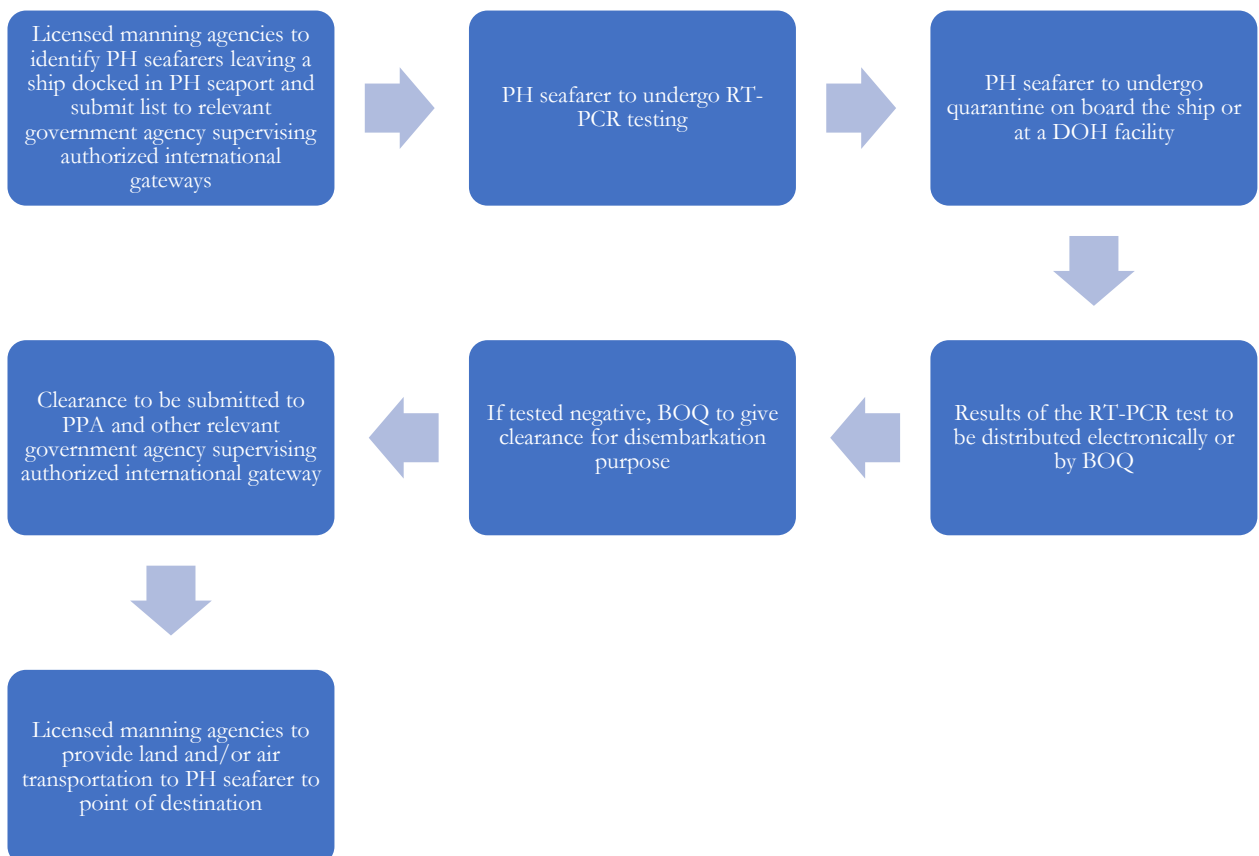
1. Licensed manning agencies shall identify the Filipino seafarers who will be signing on a ship, ensure their proper documentation in accordance with the POEA Rules and Regulations, and provide for the appropriate land and/or air transportation from the point of hire to the seaport where the ship is docked, including to the COVID-19 testing site.
2. The Filipino seafarer shall undergo COVID-19 testing, the cost of which shall be borne by the licensed manning agency.
3. Pending release of the COVID-19 testing, the Filipino seafarer shall undergo a facility-based quarantine in a DOH-accredited facility. The accommodation, meals and transportation of the Filipino seafarer shall be at the expense of the licensed manning agency.
4. Upon receipt of a negative test result, the licensed manning agency shall arrange for the land and/or air transportation of the Filipino seafarer joining the ship. Appropriate coordination with the DOTr and OWWA must be made by the licensed manning agency.

Licensed manning agencies must provide a list of embarking or departing seafarers to the respective government agencies having supervision and regulation over authorized international gateways,



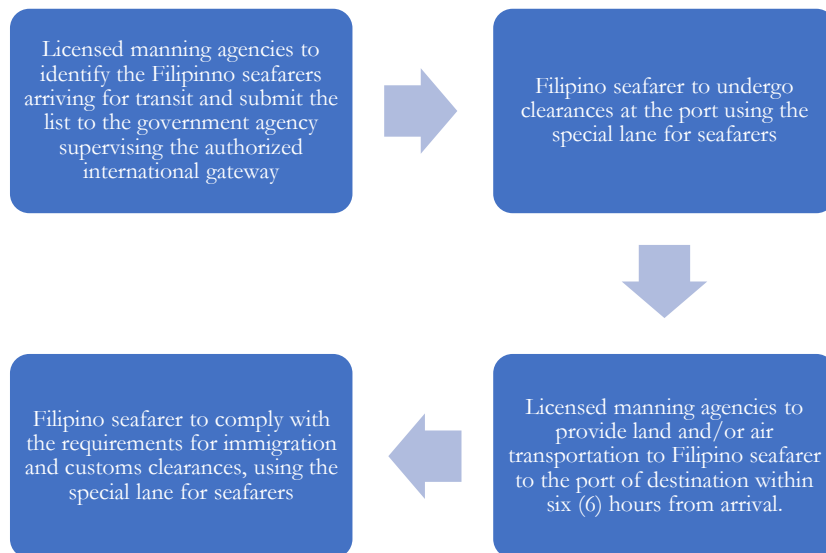
VI. GUIDELINES FOR FILIPINO SEAFARERS LEAVING A SHIP (INBOUND)

1. Licensed manning agencies shall identify the Filipino seafarers who will be signing off the ship and submit the list to the respective government agencies having supervision and regulation over authorized international gateways,
2. The Filipino seafarer must undergo an RT-PCR testing aboard the ship or at a special area designated in the seaport, the cost of which shall be borne by the PhilHealth.
3. Pending release of the RT-PCR testing, the Filipino seafarer shall undergo quarantine either on board the ship or in a DOH-accredited facility, with his/her accommodation and meals to be at the expense of the licensed manning agency. The results of the RT-PCR testing shall be distributed electronically or by the BOQ, as the case may be.
4. Upon receipt of a negative test result, the BOQ shall provide the appropriate clearance to the Filipino seafarer or licensed manning agencies, which in turn shall submit the same to the PPA and other respective government agencies having supervision and regulation over authorized international gateways, for the purpose of disembarkation.
5. The licensed manning agency shall arrange for the land and/or air transportation of the Filipino seafarer to the point of destination.



VII. GUIDELINES FOR FILIPINO SEAFARERS TRANSITING IN THE PHILIPPINES (Airport/Terminal to Airport/Terminal)

1. Filipino seafarers shall be allowed to transit in the Philippines, whether from airport to ship, ship to airport, or airport to airport, provided the following are complied with:
 - a. The Filipino seafarer does not exhibit any sign or symptom of COVID-19;
 - b. The Filipino 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 airport, within six (6) hours from arrival, and may not leave the same upon embarkation;
 - c. The Filipino 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 Filipino seafarer shall not be allowed to stay anywhere else in the Philippines outside the port of origin and destination.
2. Licensed manning agencies shall identify the Filipino seafarers arriving for the purpose of transit and submit the list to the respective government agencies having supervision and regulation over authorized international gateways.
3. Upon arrival, the Filipino seafarer must comply with the requirements for immigration and customs clearances, using the special lane for seafarers at various ports. For this purpose, the Filipino seafarer must possess a medical certificate stating that he/she has tested negative of COVID-19 within the last seventy-two (72) hours prior to arrival at the port. 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; or (c) re-testing when there are apparent symptoms or signs of possible infection upon arrival in the Philippines.
4. Licensed manning agencies shall provide for the land and/or air transportation of the Filipino seafarer to the destination port and should directly transport him/her within six (6) hours from arrival.
5. In case the Filipino 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 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 port of destination, the Filipino seafarer shall comply with the requirements for immigration and customs clearances, using the special lane for seafarers.
7. In case of emergencies, licensed manning agencies or shipping principals or their agents should, in line with their obligations, find arrangements with Philippine ports to ensure the Filipino seafarer's access to adequate medical care, including access to hospitals, clinics and other emergency medical equipment, to prevent any outbreak while awaiting repatriation. The licensed manning agencies, shipping principal or their agents should furnish the relevant government agencies on the status of the seafarers on board ships who were given emergency care or response. For this purpose, the BOQ, shall identify the appropriate isolation facility for the Filipino seafarer.

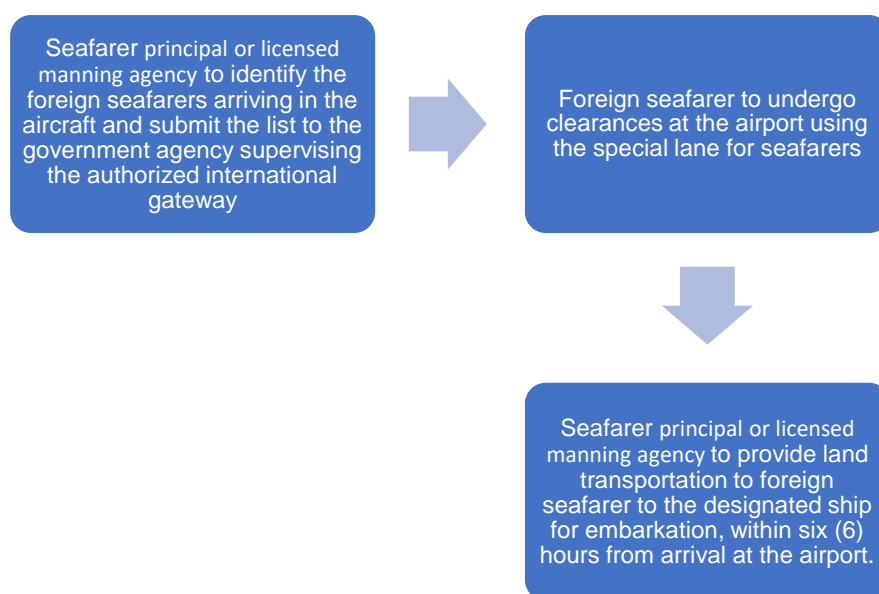


VIII. GUIDELINES FOR FOREIGN SEAFARERS JOINING A SHIP DOCKED IN THE PHILIPPINE SEAPORT FROM THE AIRPORT (Airport to Ship)

1. Foreign seafarers shall be allowed to leave an aircraft landing in the Philippines for the purpose of boarding a vessel docked in Philippine seaports, provided the following are complied with:
 - a. The foreign seafarer does not exhibit any sign or symptom of COVID-19;
 - b. The foreign seafarer shall, from the airport, proceed directly to the ship docked in the Philippine seaport within six (6) hours from arrival at the airport, and may not leave the same upon embarkation; and
 - c. The foreign seafarer shall not be allowed to stay anywhere else in the Philippines outside the airport or ship.
2. The licensed manning agency or shipping principal 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.
3. Upon arrival, the foreign seafarer must comply with the requirements for immigration and customs clearances, using the special lane for seafarers at the airport. For this purpose, the foreign seafarer must possess a valid 9(c) Philippine-issued visa and a medical certificate stating that said foreign seafarer has tested negative of COVID-19 within the last seventy-two (72) hours prior to arrival at the airport. 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; or (c) re-testing when there are apparent symptoms or signs of possible infection upon arrival in the Philippines.
4. The licensed manning agency or shipping principal 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. 29-2020 dated 19 March 2020. 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

then apply for 9(c) visas at the Philippines' various Foreign Service Posts. The DFA shall advise the BI upon issuance of the visa.

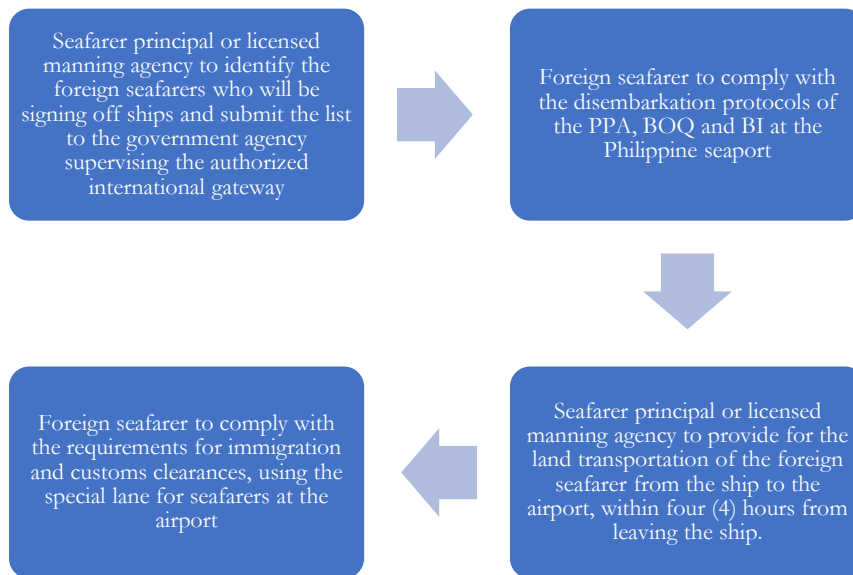
5. The licensed manning agency or shipping principal of the foreign seafarer shall provide for the land transportation of the foreign seafarer to the designated ship for embarkation, and should directly transport him/her within six (6) hours from arrival at the airport.
6. In case the foreign seafarer has, for any other reason, not been able to embark in the ship within six (6) hours from arrival at the airport, 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.
7. In case of emergencies, the licensed manning agency or shipping principal of the foreign seafarer or shipping principals or their agents should, in line with their obligations, find arrangements with Philippine ports to ensure the foreign seafarer's access to adequate medical care, including access to hospitals, clinics and other emergency medical equipment, to prevent any outbreak while awaiting repatriation. The licensed manning agencies, shipping principal or their agents should furnish the relevant government agencies on the status of the seafarers on board ships who were given emergency care or response. For this purpose, the BOQ, shall identify the appropriate isolation facility for the foreign seafarer.



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 seaports, provided the following are complied with:
 - a. The foreign seafarer does not exhibit any sign or symptom of COVID-19;
 - b. The foreign seafarer has a confirmed outbound flight within four (4) hours from disembarking from the ship;

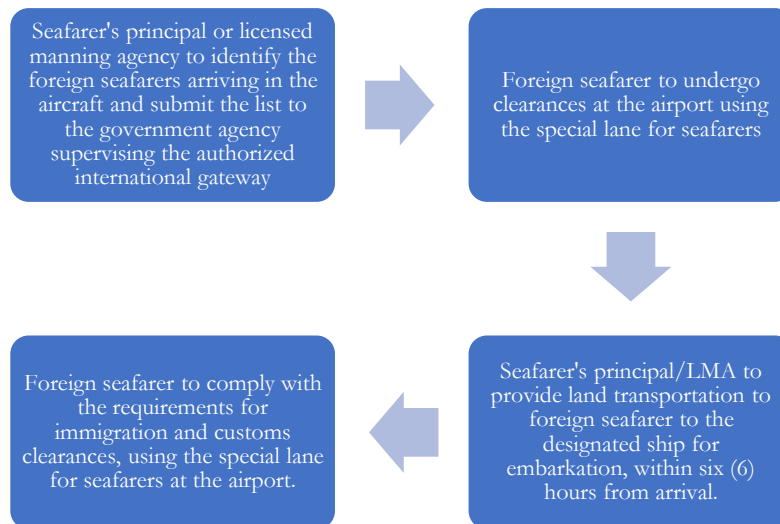
- c. The foreign seafarer shall, from the ship, proceed directly to the airport, and may not leave the same upon arrival; and
 - d. The foreign seafarer shall not be allowed to stay anywhere else in the Philippines outside the airport or ship.
2. The licensed manning agency, shipping principal or their 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 disembarkation protocols of the PPA, BOQ and BI at the Philippine seaport. For this purpose, the foreign seafarer must possess a valid 9(c) Philippine-issued visa and a medical certificate stating that said foreign seafarer has tested negative of COVID-19 within the last seventy-two (72) hours prior to arrival at the seaport. 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; 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 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. 29-2020 dated 19 March 2020. 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. The DFA shall advise the BI upon issuance of the visa.
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. 29-2020 dated 19 March 2020, 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 visa issuance.
6. The licensed manning agency, shipping principal or their 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.
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. In case of emergencies, the licensed manning agency, shipping principal or their agents of the foreign seafarer or shipping principals or their agents should, in line with their obligations, find arrangements with Philippine ports to 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.



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

1. Foreign seafarers shall be allowed to disembark from an aircraft landing 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 airport, within six (6) hours from arrival, and may not leave the same upon embarkation;
 - 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 their 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. Upon arrival, the foreign seafarer must comply with the requirements for immigration and customs clearances, using the special lane for seafarers at the airport. For this purpose, the foreign seafarer must possess a valid 9(c) Philippine-issued visa and a medical certificate stating that said foreign seafarer has tested negative of COVID-19 within the last seventy-two (72) hours prior to arrival at the airport. 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; or (c) re-testing when there are apparent symptoms or signs of possible infection upon arrival in the Philippines.

4. Should the foreign seafarer seek exemption from the visa requirements of the Philippines prior to arrival at the airport, 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. 29-2020 dated 19 March 2020. 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 then apply for 9(c) visas at the Philippines' various Foreign Service Posts. The DFA shall advise the BI upon issuance of the visa.
5. The licensed manning agency, shipping principal or their 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.
6. 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 quarantine, the cost of which, including meals and accommodation in a DOH-accredited facility, to be borne by the licensed manning agencies.
7. 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.
8. In case of emergencies, the licensed manning agency, shipping principal or their agents of the foreign seafarer or shipping principals or their agents should, in line with their obligations, find arrangements with Philippine ports to 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.



XI. EFFECTIVITY

This Joint Circular shall take effect on 02 July 2020 until repealed.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 02 July 2020, Philippines *via* video conference.

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