

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 07-A**  
**Series of 2020**

TO : ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Additional Guidelines on POEA Transactions and OFW Departures during the Enhanced Community Quarantine and National State of Calamity brought about by Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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Further to POEA Memorandum Circular No. 07, Series of 2020, and in compliance with Proclamation Nos. 929 and 922 (Series 2020) and Republic Act No. 11332 following the sharp increase in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, the entire country is declared under a state of calamity for a period of six (6) months, and an enhanced community quarantine is imposed over Luzon until 12 April 2020 unless earlier lifted or extended as circumstances may warrant.

In compliance further to the guidance of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID), additional guidelines relevant to the transactions at the POEA and overseas Filipino worker (OFW) departures are hereby provided as follows:

**I. Renewal, Upgrading and Extension of Principal Accreditation during the Enhanced Community Quarantine and National State of Calamity brought about by Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

1. *Licensed Landbased Recruitment Agencies (LRAs)*. The principal accreditation of LRAs affected by the enhanced community quarantine orders whose expiration fall during the period of 15 March 2020 to 14 April 2020, shall automatically be given an extension of thirty (30) days and shall be allowed to file their application for renewal, upgrading or extension upon the lifting of the total lockdown and enhanced community quarantine orders.

The extension of accreditation shall not be interpreted as exemption from existing or subsequent issuances relevant to restrictions for deployment in the Philippines or restrictions of entry in countries of destination.

## 2. *Licensed Seabased Manning Agencies (LMAs)*

2.a. The principal accreditation of LMAs affected by the enhanced community quarantine orders whose expiration fall during the period of 15 March 2020 to 14 April 2020, shall automatically be given an extension of thirty (30) days and shall be allowed to file their application for renewal, upgrading or extension upon the lifting of the total lockdown and enhanced community quarantine orders.

The extension of accreditation shall not be interpreted as exemption from existing or subsequent issuances relevant to restrictions for deployment in the Philippines or restrictions of entry in countries of destination / flag states.

2.b. LMAs application for renewal, upgrading and extension of principal accreditation already received but pending evaluation, review, and approval will be acted upon on the next working day following the lifting of the total lockdown and enhanced community quarantine orders.

## **II. Extension of Seafarer Contract**

The consummated contract of seafarers who are prevented by circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic to disembark or to be repatriated can be extended for a maximum of sixty (60) days, *provided* that:

- a. the seafarer is asymptomatic of COVID-19;
- b. the extension is mutually agreed upon by the seafarer and the principal;
- c. requirements for exemptions set by international seafaring authorities are complied with, if applicable; and
- d. LMAs with seafarers whose employment contracts are extended are duly reported to this Administration.

*Provided further*, that the seafarer's record book and passport are valid during the period of extension of the employment contract.

## **III. Deployment of Health Care Workers**

In compliance with national and inter-agency directives, the deployment of Filipino health care workers shall be strictly regulated to prioritize and provide support to the health care needs of the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. Such regulation shall be lifted as soon as the pandemic is declared to be under control.

Towards this end, the POEA Employment Branch shall immediately study, coordinate with health authorities, and provide guidelines for a regulated deployment of Filipino health care workers.

This Circular temporarily amends previous POEA issuances contrary hereto.

This Circular shall be subject to amendments upon the issuance of further directives.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

For strict compliance.



**BERNARD P. OLALIA**  
Administrator

*20 March 2020*