

OFW Advisory
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Warning on cruise ship job scam

Filipino workers should be aware of the recurrence of a scam targeting applicants for employment aboard cruise ships.

The scam begins with an e-mail from the recruiter claiming to represent a major company such as Carnival Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, Disney Cruise Line, MSC Cruises, P&O Cruises, etc. The recruiter guarantees the target person a job with a cruise ship, in exchange for paying a fee upfront. When the victim pays, the scammer – and the supposed job – simply disappear.

One of the most important things to remember when looking for employment in a cruise ship is that you should never pay any fee, including recruitment and placement fees. Legitimate manning agencies and cruise lines are not allowed to charge administrative fees from seafarers.

Cruise ship job scams tend to have the following features:

- Jobs are advertised on free websites and social media. Scammers would not pay advertisement for jobs that do not exist
- Emails are sent from free email accounts such as Yahoo and Gmail.
- The correspondence is in poor English and very informal
- Scammers operate from countries such as Malaysia, Ghana, Nigeria, etc.
- The job offers are usually very generous (high salaries, short working hours, long paid holidays, etc.)
- No thorough interviews with candidates
- The job offer is for free, but asks payment for visa, training, or lawyer fee
- Payment is through MoneyGram or Western Union

Getting a job on a cruise ship is not an easy process. If it sounds too good to be true, it most likely isn't true!

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