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Department of Migrant Workers

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BAGONG PILIPINAS

ADVISORY NO. 48

Series of 2026

Reiteration of relative DMW Issuances on the Observance of the designated High-Risk and Warlike Zones, Right to Refuse Sailing, and Reportorial Requirements

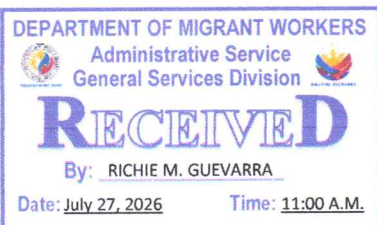
In line with the mandate of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) to uphold the safety, security, and welfare of all Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), including Filipino seafarers, and in view of the increasing number of reported attacks against merchant vessels with Filipino crew members transiting the Black Sea, all Licensed Manning Agencies (LMAs) and their accredited principals/employers are hereby sternly reminded to strictly comply with all existing DMW issuances governing the deployment and protection of Filipino seafarers in designated High Risk and Warlike Areas. This includes the strict observance of policies on the designated High Risk and Warlike Zones, the seafarers' right to refuse sailing in accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations, and the timely submission of all required reports and notifications to the Department.

In particular, the concerned are hereby reminded to observe the following directives:

- Department Order No. 01, Series of 2024 on the observance of the International Bargaining Forum (IBF)/International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) High-Risk and Warlike Zones and implementation of the Right to Refuse Sailing for Seafarers;
- Department Order No. 03, Series of 2024 on the deployment of Filipino seafarers' on-board ships which traversed through the IBF/ITF designated high-risk and warlike zones which have been attacked;
- Advisory No. 21, Series of 2025 on the reiteration of DMW issuances on the urgent rerouting of ships with Filipino crew in high-risk and warlike areas, right to refuse sailing, and the appointment of a Seafarers' Welfare and Crisis Management Officer (SWACO);
- Periodic issuances on the updated list of IBF/ITF High-Risk and Warlike Areas; and
- Other applicable issuances and guidelines.

LMAs and their accredited principals/employers are likewise directed to implement the following precautions for seafarers' on-board vessels that are scheduled or intends to traverse designated high-risk or warlike zones, especially in the Black Sea:

1. Conduct of Risk Assessment prior to the vessel's entry into or transit through the Black Sea.



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2. No Filipino seafarer shall be deployed to any vessel scheduled to enter or transit the Black Sea War/High-Risk Area without the seafarer's voluntary written consent, executed after being fully informed of the prevailing security situation and the risks involved;
3. Honor the refusal of seafarers to continue sailing in said risk zones and ensure their immediate repatriation and provision of proper compensation/benefits. No seafarer who validly exercises such right shall be subjected to discrimination, retaliation, intimidation, blacklisting, or any other adverse employment action.
4. Provide appropriate security measures, protocols, and contingencies to limit risks and adverse effects of their intended passage as well as faithfully observe and provide proper compensation/benefits for those who have expressed consent;
5. Full compliance with internationally recognized maritime security measures, including the implementation of ship security plans, emergency response protocols, and other protective measures consistent with applicable international maritime regulations and industry best practices.
6. All concerned LMAs shall immediately notify the Department through the **DMW Overseas Workers Monitoring System (OWMS)**, copy furnished at sbhighrisk@dmw.gov.ph, of any vessel carrying Filipino seafarers that is scheduled to enter, transit, or operate within the Black Sea. The report shall include the vessel's itinerary, estimated period of transit, number of Filipino crew members on board, the security measures adopted by the principal, and the status of each seafarer's consent or refusal to sail in accordance with existing DMW issuances.
7. Concerned LMAs shall ensure the continuous monitoring of all deployed Filipino seafarers intending to pass through, transiting, or operating within the Black Sea, and maintain close coordination with their accredited principals, vessel masters, and the Department to facilitate the timely exchange of information and appropriate response to emerging security concerns.
8. LMAs shall immediately report to the Department, through the DMW Overseas Workers Monitoring System (OWMS), copy furnished at sbhighrisk@dmw.gov.ph, any significant security incident or development affecting Filipino seafarers deployed in the Black Sea, including, but not limited to, missile attacks, drone attacks, detention, piracy or armed attacks, casualties, injuries, missing persons, or any other emergency situation. The report shall include the actions undertaken by the principal or employer to safeguard the affected seafarers and mitigate the impact of the incident. The concerned LMA shall provide continuous updates through the same reporting channels until the welfare and disposition of all affected Filipino seafarers have been fully addressed; and



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9. Following the report to the Department under the preceding paragraph, the concerned LMA, in coordination with its accredited principal or employer, shall immediately notify the seafarer's designated next of kin of any security incident, emergency, or casualty involving the seafarer. The LMA shall provide timely, accurate, and verified information on the seafarer's condition, maintain regular communication with the family, and coordinate with the Department in extending the necessary welfare assistance. In cases involving death, missing persons, or serious injury, the concerned LMA shall continue to coordinate with the Department and the seafarer's family until all appropriate interventions, including repatriation, post-incident assistance, or other necessary arrangements, have been completed.

Any violation of the foregoing directives shall be subject to appropriate sanctions under existing laws, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to the suspension or cancellation of LMA's license and employer's accreditation.

For the information, guidance, and strict compliance of all concerned.


HANS LEO J. CACDAC
Secretary

24 July 2026



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