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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Philippine Ports Authority
Maritime Industry Authority
Philippine Coast Guard

JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 001 series of 2025

SUBJECT: **IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF DOMESTIC PASSENGER VESSEL CAPACITY LIMITS**

Section 6(a)(ii) of *Presidential Decree No. 857* prescribes the duty of Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to supervise, control, regulate, construct, maintain, operate, and provide such facilities of services as are necessary in the ports.

Pursuant to *Section 6(a)* of *Presidential Decree No. 474*, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has the power to promulgate and prescribe such promotional and development rules and regulations, standards, guidelines and procedures and recommend laws or measures as may be necessary for the growth and effective regulation of shipping enterprises.

Under *Section 3(b)* of *Republic Act No. 9993*, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is mandated to inspect all merchant ships and vessels, including but shall not be limited to inspections prior to departure, to ensure and enforce compliance with safety standards, rules and regulations.

Accordingly, and in line with the efforts to ensure the safety of passengers aboard domestic vessels, the following guidelines are hereby issued for strict compliance:

SECTION 1. Submission of Approved Vessel Capacity

All domestic shipping lines shall submit to the PPA and the PCG a copy of the MARINA-approved vessel passenger capacity for each vessel in their fleet. The initial submission shall be made no later than five (5) working days from the effectivity of this *Joint Memorandum Circular*. Thereafter, any updated capacity shall be submitted within five (5) working days from approval or amendment by MARINA.

SECTION 2. Establishment of a Shared Information Portal

The PPA, MARINA, and the PCG shall jointly establish and maintain a shared and regularly updated information portal containing the approved passenger

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capacity of all domestic vessels. The portal shall be accessible to all three agencies for monitoring, enforcement, and verification purposes.

SECTION 3. Enforcement by the Philippine Coast Guard

The PCG shall refer to the approved vessel capacity, as indicated in MARINA-issued documents, when conducting pre-departure inspections of domestic passenger vessels. No vessel shall be cleared for departure if the number of boarded passengers exceeds the approved capacity.

SECTION 4. Ticket Sales Limitation

Shipping lines are strictly prohibited from selling or issuing tickets beyond the MARINA-approved passenger capacity of their vessels. Ticketing systems shall be configured to automatically cap ticket sales in accordance with such capacity.

SECTION 5. Boarding and Rebooking Procedures

No passenger in excess of the MARINA-approved capacity shall be allowed to board a vessel, regardless of possession of a paid ticket. Shipping lines shall be responsible for ensuring that any offloaded passenger due to overcapacity shall, at the option of the passenger, be reimbursed the full amount paid for his/her ticket, or be accommodated on the next available voyage and given boarding priority over confirmed passengers on such voyage.

SECTION 6. Penalties and Sanctions

Any violation of the foregoing provisions, including but not limited to overloading or allowing boarding beyond approved capacity, shall constitute a breach of MARINA regulations and shall be subject to appropriate administrative sanctions, including possible suspension or revocation of the vessel's authority to operate.

SECTION 7. Effectivity

This *Joint Memorandum Circular* shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the filing thereof with the Office of the National Administration Register (ONAR).

Issued this 6th day of May 2025.

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