



Republic of the Philippines  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
**COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**



**CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER (CMO)**

**No. 37**  
**Series of 2016**

**SUBJECT: EXEMPTION OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MARINE TRANSPORTATION (BSMT) AND BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MARINE ENGINEERING (BSMARE) PROGRAMS FROM THE EXPANDED TERTIARY EDUCATION EQUIVALENCY AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (ETEEAP)**

In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994", the 2010 Manila Amendments to the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (1978 STCW Convention), by virtue of Commission *en banc* Resolution No. 206-2016 dated 4 April 2016, and for the purpose of rationalizing maritime education in the country, with the end in view of keeping it at par and responsive to the latest international trends and requirements of the industry, this set of policies, standards and guidelines for the exemption of the BSMT & BSMARE from the ETEEAP program, are hereby adopted and promulgated by the Commission, thus:

**ARTICLE I**  
**INTRODUCTION**

**Section 1. Rationale and Background**

In 1996, Executive Order No. 330 (EO 330) entitled "*Adopting the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation program as an Integral Part of the Educational System and Designating the Commission on Higher Education as the Authority Responsible for its Implementation*" was issued and implemented in accordance with Section 1 and 2, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution, the purpose of which, is to award the work experience, knowledge, and expertise acquired by individuals from high-level, non-formal and informal training an equivalent academic baccalaureate degree.

In 1997, pursuant to EO 330, CMO No. 21 series of 1997 was issued to guide Maritime Higher Education Institutions (MHEIs) in the implementation of EO 330 and this was further refined with the issuance of CMO No. 8, series of 2009 and CMO No. 28 series of 2013.

The conference of parties to the STCW Convention held in Manila on 21-25 June 2010 adopted the Manila Amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention. These amendments updated the standards of competence required of marine deck and engineering officers at the operational level particularly, in light of emerging technologies, new training and certification requirements and methodologies, and medical fitness standards for seafarers among others, and ultimately for shipping companies to have a safe, secure and efficient shipping operation on cleaner oceans.

In view of the foregoing and in furtherance of the ongoing paradigm shift to learning competency-based standards in Philippine higher education, the CHED issued CMO Nos. 13, 31 and 14, 32 Series of 2013 and CMO No. 20, series of 2015 (PSGs on Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation and Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering, respectively) to align the two undergraduate degree programs with national academic standards, industry needs and international standards.

The crafting of the abovementioned CMOs was enlightened by the new model courses of the International Maritime Organization as approved by the General Assembly of the STW 44 Meeting on 3 May 2013. At the same time, the General Assembly accepted another model course on Leadership and Teamwork for inclusion in the Model courses for OIC deck and engine watch.

In light of these developments, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Board of Marine Deck and Engine Officers deemed it appropriate to defer accepting licensure examinees under the ETEEAP program in view of the fact that there is no equivalency for the competence required under the STCW Table of competence for work experience, knowledge, and expertise acquired by individuals from high-level, non-formal and informal training while onboard or ashore.

Thus, the Technical Panel for Maritime Education recommended that the Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation (BSMT) and Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering (BSMARE) programs be exempted from the ETEEAP program.

## **ARTICLE II IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES**

### **Section 2. Cease and Desist Order**

All Maritime Higher Education Institutions are hereby ordered to cease and desist from operating the BSMT and BSMARE programs under the ETEEAP program.

### **Section 3. Revocation, Rescinding and Nullification of Authority**

Every permit and authority granted to MHEIs to operate the BSMT and BSMARE programs under the ETEEAP program is hereby revoked, rescinded and nullified. However, the ETEEAP program shall be allowed to continue until the students currently enrolled shall have graduated. In no case shall MHEIs accept new students for BSMT and BSMARE programs under the ETEEAP program.



#### **Section 4. Endorsement of Graduates**

All affected graduates of the BSMT and BSMARE under the ETEEAP program shall be endorsed to the MARINA Board of Marine Deck and Engine Officers for Certification.

### **Article III MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

#### **Section 5. Sanctions**

For violation of the foregoing policies, standards and guidelines, CHED shall impose sanctions, as it may deem appropriate pursuant to Republic Act No. 7722 [Higher Education Act of 1994], Batas Pambansa Bilang 232 [The Education Act of 1982], CMO No. 40, s. 2008 [Manual of Regulations for Private Higher Education of 2008 (MORPHE)] and all other applicable CHED rules and regulations and legislations.

#### **Section 6. Repealing Clause**

All issuances, relevant to policies, standards and guidelines which are inconsistent with the provision of this CMO are hereby repealed, amended, modified or superseded accordingly in accordance with the intent of this Order.

#### **Section 7. Separability Clause**

If any part or provision of this CMO shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

#### **Section 8. Effectivity Clause**

This CMO shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Commission and 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

Quezon City, Philippines, 22 June 2016.

For the Commission:



**PATRICIA B. LICUANAN, Ph.D.**  
Chairperson

