

Merchant Marine Circular

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-399

To: Recognized Organizations (ROs), Classification Societies, Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels and Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates.

Subject: Statutory requirements for a Single International Voyage

Reference: a) SOLAS Convention Chapter I regulation 4(a)
b) Resolution A.765(18) - Adopted 4 November 1993 - Guidelines on the Safety of Towed ships and other Floating Objects, including Installations Structures and Platforms at Sea (as a recommendation only),
c) MSC/Circ.884 - 21 December 1998 - GUIDELINES FOR SAFE OCEAN TOWING (as a recommendation only).

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform the requirements applicable to ships which are not normally engaged on international voyages but which, in exceptional circumstances, are required to undertake a single international voyage.

2. Scope

- 2.1. This Merchant Marine Circular applies to ships not normally engaged in international voyages which in exceptional circumstances requires to undertake a single international voyage by its own means or in towing conditions.



Merchant Marine Circular

3. Background

- 3.1. According to SOLAS Convention Chapter I regulation 4 (a) “A ship which is not normally engaged on international voyages but which, in exceptional circumstances, is required to undertake a single international voyage may be exempted by the Administration from any of the requirements of the present Regulations provided that it complies with safety requirements which are adequate in the opinion of the Administration for the voyage which is to be undertaken by the ship”

4. Requirements

- 4.1. Given the aforementioned, ships in such circumstances shall comply in first instance with the following technical requirements:
- 4.1.1. All applicable statutory certificates according to the ship type and service (which shall be issued by the nominated Recognized Organization or Class). These Certificates shall be valid at least for the same period of the Special Registry Certificate, and,
 - 4.1.2. The following certificates issued by this Administration:
 - 4.1.2.1. Minimum Safe Manning Certificate (MSMC),
 - 4.1.2.2. Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Liability for the Removal of Wrecks (WRC) (ships of 300 gross tonnage and above) financial securities shall be valid at least for the same period of the Special Registry Certificate,
 - 4.1.2.3. Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage – (BCC) (ships of 1000 gross tonnage and above) financial securities shall be valid at least for the same period of the Special Registry Certificate,
 - 4.1.2.4. International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) (interim issued by the Class Society/Recognized Organization),



Merchant Marine Circular

- 4.1.2.5. SOC-DCS CII (at the end of the voyage the data shall be sent to the Class Society/Recognized Organization for verification and document requested right after the special registration expires),
- 4.1.2.6. Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR) (no exemptions allowed),
- 4.1.3. Ships shall be subject to a Safety Management System (SMS); therefore, at least and interim SMC and valid DOC copy shall be placed on board.
- 4.1.4. In case of ships managed by a Company not holder of a Document of Compliance (DOC/ISM) issued under Panama flag, then a valid Document of Compliance (DOC/ISM) issued by other Administration or on behalf of such Administration may be accepted for the intended single voyage.
- 4.2. The requirements described in this Circular are applicable to ships intending a single voyage for delivery purposes, meaning that the ship is not carrying any cargo or passenger onboard.
- 4.3. In case that ships in exceptional circumstances might result impracticable to comply with a specific requirement indicated in the International Conventions or Codes (as applicable), this Administration will evaluate along with the nominated Class Society/ Recognized Organization the issuance of Exemption Certificates or Single voyage authorization, as each instrument allows us.

5. Single Voyage in Towing Conditions

- 5.1. In case of commercial towing operations which, by their nature, are not salvage or rescue towing services should follow the Guidelines for safe ocean towing (MSC/Circ.884). The following aspects should be observed:
 - 5.1.1. Responsibilities



Merchant Marine Circular

- 5.1.2. Manning of towing vessels and towed objects
- 5.1.3. Planning
- 5.1.4. Preparation
- 5.1.5. Survey
- 5.1.6. Design environmental conditions
- 5.1.7. Weather forecast
- 5.1.8. Towing vessel requirements
- 5.1.9. Towing equipment
- 5.1.10. Towed object
- 5.1.11. In an emergency

5.2. In this case the towed vessel should comply at least with the following:

- 5.2.1. Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Liability for the Removal of Wrecks (WRC) (ships of 300 gross tonnage and above) financial securities shall be valid at least for the same period of the Special Registry Certificate,
- 5.2.2. Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage – (BCC) (ships of 1000 gross tonnage and above) financial securities shall be valid at least for the same period of the Special Registry Certificate, if the towed vessel has onboard any bunker oil and/or any residues of such oil.

August, 2023 – New.

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Circular or any other request should be forward to:

SEGUMAR Offices
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5356 / 5362 / 5363 / 5352

E-mail: headoffice@segumar.com; internationaloffices@segumar.com

Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/>