

# Merchant Marine Circular

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

## MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-136

- To:** Ship-owners/Operators, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (RO's).
- Subject:** Recognized Organizations authorized by the Republic of Panama.
- Reference:** Decree Law No. 7 of February 10, 1998.  
Resolution No. 614-232-ALCN.  
Law No. 57 of August 6, 2008.  
Resolution MSC.350(92) dated June 21, 2013, (Adopted through Resolution 106-OMI-135-DGMM dated October 24, 2019).  
Resolution MEPC.238(65) dated May 17, 2013, (Adopted through Resolution 106-OMI-136-DGMM dated October 24, 2019).  
Resolution MSC.356(92) dated June 21, 2013, (Adopted through Resolution 106-OMI-137-DGMM dated October 24, 2019).  
Resolutions MSC.349(92) and MEPC.237(65).  
Resolution No. 106-023-DGMM, dated March 30, 2022.  
Resolution No. J.D. 055-2022, dated September 22, 2022.  
Executive Decree No. 337, dated December 22, 2022.

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1. This Merchant Marine Circular replaces MMC-15 and MMC-36.

## 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this circular is to inform all our stakeholders of the list of Recognized Organizations (RO) and Recognized Security Organizations (RSO) authorized to perform Statutory Certification and Services on behalf of the Republic of Panama for vessels registered in the Panamanian Merchant Marine.

## 3. SCOPE

**3.1.** The General Directorate of Merchant Marine, based on the provisions of Law No. 57 dated August 6, 2008, Article 128 is able to delegate to other entities, its faculty to verify and certify Panamanian flagged vessels, according to maritime regulations adopted by this



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Administration, so that such entities can conduct inspections and issue certificates on behalf of the Republic of Panama, in order to verify that our fleet is fulfilling compliance in terms of safety, security and prevention of maritime pollution.

- 3.2.** Furthermore, through National Resolutions No. 106-OMI-135-DGMM, 106-OMI-136-DGMM, and 106-OMI-137-DGMM, all of them of October 29, 2014, the General Directorate of Merchant Marine adopted the IMO Resolutions MEPC.238(65), MSC.350(92) and MSC.356(92), through which the Recognized Organization Code became mandatory.
- 3.3.** Moreover, through the National Resolution ADM No. 014-2021 of February 17, 2021, this Administration implemented Resolution A.1070(28) IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code) – Delegation of Authority, paragraph 18.
- 3.4.** Lastly, through the National Resolution No. 106-023-DGMM of March 30, 2022; the General Directorate of Merchant Marine adopted the regulation to rule, control, and monitor Recognized Organizations and Recognized Security Organizations authorized by the Republic of Panama and those seeking approval as Recognized Organization.
- 3.5.** The aforementioned legislations are the legal basis through which this Administration administers and regulates the delegation of authority for statutory certification and services in accordance with the applicable requirements of the international mandatory instruments.

## 4. APPLICABILITY

- 4.1.** Recognized Organizations shall be in compliance with the RO Code requirements, to perform statutory certification and services under mandatory IMO instruments and national legislation, on behalf of the Republic of Panama.
- 4.2.** All requirements of the RO Code are generics and applicable to all Recognized Organizations, regardless of their type and size and the statutory certification and services provided.
- 4.3.** It is noteworthy that Recognized Organizations do not need to provide all types of statutory certification and services and may have a limited scope of delegation, provided that the requirements of the RO Code are applied in a manner that is compatible with the limited scope of delegation.

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION

### 5.1. Delegation of Authority

#### 5.1.1. New Organizations



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**5.1.1.1.** Companies interested in being authorized as a Recognized Organization, Recognized Security Organization, or accepted as a Classification Society, to perform statutory certification and services on behalf of the Republic of Panama, shall apply, through its legal representative, in a formal letter addressed to the General Directorate of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority and accompanied by the documents listed in Article 3 / Article 4 of [Resolution No. 106-023-DGMM of March 30, 2022](#).

**5.1.1.2.** The evaluation process shall be according to the provisions of Article 9 and Article 19 of Resolution No. 106-023-DGMM of March 30, 2022.

**5.1.1.3.** Once approved, a reasoned resolution will be issued and the Official Delegation Agreement signed, as a confirmation that the organization has been recognized by the Republic of Panama, as stated in paragraph 11 of Resolution No. 106-023-DGMM of March 30, 2022.

## **5.1.2. Organizations Authorized**

**5.1.2.1.** Recognized Organizations duly authorized by this Administration and interested in broadening the delegation of authority, shall apply through their legal representative, in a formal letter addressed to the General Directorate of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority and accompanied by the documents listed in Article 8 of Resolution No. 106-023-DGMM of March 30, 2022.

**5.1.2.2.** The evaluation process shall be according to the provisions of Article 9 of Resolution No. 106-023-DGMM of March 30, 2022.

**5.1.2.3.** Once approved, a reasoned resolution will be issued, as stated in paragraph 11 of Resolution No. 106-023-DGMM of March 30, 2022.

## **5.2. Oversight Program**

**5.2.1.** In order to determine the aspects of managerial, technical, and administrative capacity, competence, capacity, and full knowledge of the work carried out by the Recognized Organizations within the framework of the delegation of authority, based on Resolution No. 106-023-DGMM of March 30, 2022; this Administration has adopted mechanisms to supervise and monitor the Recognized Organizations by conducting:

**5.2.1.1.** Audits,

**5.2.1.2.** Annual Performance Evaluations (i.e., PSC performance, Mal Practice, among others),



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- 5.2.1.3. Remote monitoring (not regarded as audit),
- 5.2.1.4. Follow-Up Visits,
- 5.2.1.5. Any other activity considered appropriate to carry out the work of supervision and monitoring.

## 5.3. List of authorized Recognized Organizations

5.3.1. In order to comply with the National Regulations and International Conventions duly ratified by the Republic of Panama, the following Recognized Organizations and Recognized Security Organizations have been entrusted with the surveys/ inspections/ audits/ approvals and the issuance of relevant statutory certification on behalf of the Republic of Panama:

- 5.3.1.1. American Bureau of Shipping.
- 5.3.1.2. Bureau Veritas Marine & Offshore SAS (Bureau Veritas).
- 5.3.1.3. CR Classification Society.
- 5.3.1.4. China Classification Society.
- 5.3.1.5. Croatian Register of Shipping.
- 5.3.1.6. DNV AS (DNV).
- 5.3.1.7. Dromon Bureau of Shipping Limited.
- 5.3.1.8. Emirates Classification Society (TASNEEF) L.L.C.
- 5.3.1.9. Indian Register of Shipping.
- 5.3.1.10. Inter maritime Certification Services, S.A.
- 5.3.1.11. International Maritime Register (Panama), Inc.
- 5.3.1.12. International Naval Surveys Bureau, S.A.
- 5.3.1.13. International Register of Shipping (Panama), Inc.
- 5.3.1.14. Isthmus Bureau of Shipping.
- 5.3.1.15. Korean Register.
- 5.3.1.16. Lloyd's Register Group Limited.
- 5.3.1.17. Macosnar Corporation.
- 5.3.1.18. National Shipping Adjuster, Inc.
- 5.3.1.19. Nippon Kaiji Kyokai.
- 5.3.1.20. New United (Int'l) Marine Services Limited
- 5.3.1.21. Overseas Marine Certification Services, Inc.
- 5.3.1.22. Panama Classification Bureau, Inc.
- 5.3.1.23. Panama Maritime Documentation Services, Inc.
- 5.3.1.24. Panama Shipping Registrar Inc.
- 5.3.1.25. Phoenix Register of Shipping, S.A.
- 5.3.1.26. Polski Rejestr Statków S.A.



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- 5.3.1.27. Qualitas Register of Shipping, S.A.
- 5.3.1.28. RS Classification Services Single-Member Private Company.
- 5.3.1.29. RINA SERVICES S.p.A.
- 5.3.1.30. Russian Maritime Register of Shipping.
- 5.3.1.31. Türk Loydu Uygunluk değerlendirme Hizmetleri Anonim Sirketi (Türk Loydu).

## 5.4. Document Specifications

5.4.1. Technical Certificates issued by the Recognized Organizations on behalf of the Republic of Panama shall meet the following specifications:

- a. Technical certificates shall follow exactly the format prescribed in the annexes to the pertinent conventions, and written in English.
- b. All of the provisional conventions Technical Certificates issued shall clearly show the name(s) of the surveyor(s) / auditor(s) who carried out the survey / audit, as well as signature(s).
- c. All convention technical certificates shall be signed by the individual(s) duly authorized by the Recognized Organization to do so.
- d. The Coat of Arm of the Republic of Panama shall be printed at the head of each certificate issued on behalf of the Republic of Panama according to the following specification and as indicated by the convention (state):
  - [Full-color Coat of Arm shall be printed on a green background](#) or,
  - [Gray color](#) or [Heraldic lines Coat of Arm](#).

## 5.5. Communication with the Administration

Recognized Organizations shall monitor and follow up communications, instructions, or orders given by this Administration through the publication of the Merchant Marine Circulars and Merchant Marine Notices by accessing to <https://panamashipregistry.com/circular-category/circulares/>.

**November, 2023** – Entirely revised. This Merchant Marine Circular replaces MMC-36.

**March, 2021** – DNV GL change of name to DNV

**December, 2020** – Inclusion of Panama Classification Bureau, Inc., paragraph 5 was added and revision through the text.

**March, 2020** – Suspension of Panama Classification Bureau Inc.



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- November, 2019** – Overseas Marine Certification Services, Inc. correction name.
- June, 2019** – Change of Polski Rejestr Statków to Polski Rejestr Statków S.A.
- January, 2019** – Inclusion of RS Classification Single Member Private Company.
- January, 2019** - Recognition of Hellenic Register of Shipping has been revoked due to the cessation of operations.
- October, 2018** – Inclusion of New United (Int'l) Marine Services Limited, Emirates Classification Society (TASNEEF) L.L.C. and Panama Classification Bureau Inc.
- November, 2017** - Inclusion of Dromon Bureau of Shipping.
- November, 2017** - Inclusion of Türk Loydu.
- July, 2017** - Correction of the name “DNV GL AS” for “DNV GL”.
- March, 2017**- Inclusion of Croatian Register of Shipping.
- February, 2017**- Suspension of Panama Marine Survey and Certification Services.
- January, 2017** - Closing of the company Universal Shipping Bureau Inc.
- April, 2016** - Suspension of Global Shipping Class Inc.
- February, 2016** - Suspension of Panama Bureau of Shipping and Panama Register Corporation.
- November, 2015** - Change of REGISTRO ITALIANO NAVALE to RINA SERVICES S.p.A.
- February, 2015** - Cancellation of Global Shipping Bureau, Inc.
- September, 2014** – Correction of name for China Corporation Register of Shipping and Lloyd’s Register.
- August, 2012** - Inclusion of RO.
- October, 2011** - Format update.
- March, 2011** – Format update.
- March, 2011** – Inclusion of RO.
- January, 2011** - Inclusion of RO.
- October, 2010** - Inclusion of RO and format.
- February, 2010** - List of RO’s.
- November, 2009** - List of RO’s.
- July, 2007** – List of RO’s.
- December, 2006** - List of RO’s.
- April, 2006** - List of RO’s.
- October, 2004.**

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

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