

# Merchant Marine Circular

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

## MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-277

- To:** Ship-owners/Operators, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (RO's).
- Subject:** Fire Control Plan graphical symbols and Verification.
- Reference:** Law No. 7 of October 27, 1977 - SOLAS 1974;  
Law No. 12 of November 9, 1981 – SOLAS Protocol 1978;  
Law No. 31 of July 11, 2007 – SOLAS Protocol 1988;  
Resolution No. A.1156(32) of December 15, 2021, adopted through, Resolution No. 107-OMI-253-DGMM of March 8, 2022.  
**Only as a Recommendation** Resolution A.654(16) of October 19, 1989, **Only as Recommendation** Resolution A.756(18) of 4 November 1993, **Only as a Recommendation** Resolution A.952 (23) of December 5, 2003, **Only as Recommendation** Resolution A.1116(30) of December 5, 2017.

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Circular is to inform the Ship-owners/operators, legal representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panama Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations regarding the use on board of Graphical symbols on Fire Control Plan and its verification.
- 1.2. Recognizing the need for uniform international symbols to indicate the location of emergency equipment as well as muster stations and that the IMO Assembly had urged Contracting Governments to ensure that the symbols annexed of the IMO Assembly resolutions mentioned were used, where appropriate.

### 2. Background

- 2.1. The Resolution A.756(18) adopts the Guidelines on the Information to be Provided with Fire Control Plans and Booklets Required by SOLAS regulations II-2/20 and 41-2 and invites Governments to apply the above Guidelines when implementing



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the amendments to chapter II-2 of the SOLAS Convention adopted by Resolution MSC.24(60) adopted on April 10, 1992.

- 2.2.** Resolution A.654(16) of October 19, 1989 adopt the symbols to be used on Fire Control Plans, but also the Resolution A.952(23) of December 5, 2003 adopts the Graphical symbols for shipboard fire control plans, required by SOLAS II-2/15.2.4 for ships constructed on or after January 1, 2004. Furthermore, through this Resolution A.952(23) IMO Assembly agrees that ships constructed before January 1, 2004 may continue to carry fire control plans that use the graphical symbols contained in previous Resolution A.654(16).
- 2.3.** The Resolution A.1116(30) adopts the escape route signs and equipment location markings required by SOLAS regulations:
  - II-2/15.2.4 (Fire control plans),
  - II-2/13.3.2.5.1 (Marking of escape routes),
  - II-2/13.7 (Additional requirements for ro-ro passenger ships),
  - III/9 (Operating instructions),
  - III/11 (Survival craft muster and embarkation arrangements), and
  - III/20.10 (Marking of stowage locations).
- 2.4.** The IMO Assembly invites Contracting Governments to note that these escape route signs and equipment location markings should take effect on ships constructed on or after January 1, 2019 or ships which undergo repairs, alterations, modifications and outfitting within the scope of SOLAS chapters II-2 and/or III, as applicable, on or after January 1, 2019, and that they should be used, as appropriate, in combination with Resolution A.952(23) for the preparation of the shipboard fire control plans required by SOLAS regulation II-2/15.2.4.
- 2.5.** In ships carrying more than 36 passengers, plans and booklets required by this regulation SOLAS II-2 /15.3.2 shall provide information regarding fire protection, fire detection and fire extinction based on the guidelines of the Resolution A.756(18).

### 3. Use of Graphical Symbols

- 3.1.** Considering that according to SOLAS Convention Chapter II-2 regulation 15.2.4, Resolution A.654(16) or A.952(23) and A.1116(30) is referred as footnote, this Administration recommends that IMO Resolution A.952(23) symbols will be incorporated if it becomes necessary for any reason to reissue a vessel's Fire Control Plan especially on vessels the keels of which are laid on or after January 1, 2004. And the escape route signs and equipment location markings of the IMO Resolution A.1116 (30) on ships constructed on or after January 1, 2019.



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3.2. During the plan review process, Classification Societies or Recognized Organizations should verify compliance with Resolution A.952(23) and Resolution A.1116(30).

## 4. Fire Control Plan Verification

4.1. Fire Control Plan is a verifying item before the issuance of the CSSEC and Passenger Certificate and their subsequent inspections (as per Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC)); however, **if the RO's, following their internal procedures,** approve the Fire Control Plans on behalf of the Administration in order to demonstrate evidence of compliance with SOLAS Chapter II-2 regulation 15.2.4, such Plan approved shall be subject to what is establish on the Merchant Marine Circular MMC-324.

**June, 2022** – *Modification of previous paragraph 1 to section 1, previous paragraph 2 to section 2 and inclusion section 4.*

**June, 2013.**

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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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