



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

MERCHANT MARINE COMMUNICATIONS



PANAMA MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULARS

Consolidated List of Valid Circulars

The Directorate General of Merchant Marine maintains a consolidated digital system of Merchant Marine Circulars designed to facilitate access to the circulars, enhance searchability, and provide clear guidance to the maritime community.

Merchant Marine Circulars (MMCs) are official publications issued by the Directorate General of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority through which criteria, instructions, orders, and regulatory provisions applicable to vessels flying the Panamanian flag are communicated. These circulars establish technical and operational requirements in accordance with national legislation and relevant international conventions and standards.

Shipowners, operators, agents, and masters of vessels flying the Panamanian flag shall ensure that the applicable Merchant Marine Circulars are kept on board and that their contents are properly understood and implemented by all relevant personnel.

A consolidated digital version of the Merchant Marine Circulars is available through this system and may be searched by category, number or subject. Circulars may be issued, revised, or updated as necessary.

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I. BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT CONVENTION

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II. CASUALTY INVESTIGATIONS

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184	Casualty Investigations of Panama flagged vessels.	October 2023
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III. CONSULAR OFFICE

3	List of Merchant Marine Consular Offices.	November 2023
266	Notification of the Consulate of the Republic of Panama in Turkey as a Merchant Marine Private Consulate.	February 2013

IV. INSPECTIONS /PSC/ASI

171	Online Ship Status – ASI.	July 2024
201	Correction of Deficiencies found in ASI Inspection.	May 2023
373	Global Maritime Safety Inspection Platform Implementation (GMSIPI).	December 2023
374	Companies Representing the Flag State Inspectors.	September 2025
379	Procedure for Port State Control (PSC).	July 2024

384	Guidelines for Appeals Process Against Port State Control Deficiencies / Detentions.	October 2022
404	Measures adopted to enhance the performance of the Panamanian Merchant Fleet - Pre-arrival checklist for ports under the Port State Control (PSC) supervision of the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Paris MoU, Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and People's Republic of China Maritime Safety Administration (MSA).	April 2026
405	Fleet Risk Assessment and Performance Monitoring Accelerated Program (FRA & PMAP).	September 2025

V. ISM CODE

176	International Safety Management Code.	April 2026
354	Guidelines on Maritime Cyber Risk Management.	December 2023
388	Revised Guidelines on the Implementation of the ISM Code by Administrations.	January 2024

VI. ISPS CODE

123	International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code).	August 2025
133	Ship Security Alert System (SSAS).	August 2025
183	Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR) Online Application.	February 2026
337	Instructions for Payments to CSR and ISSC.	December 2022
346	Amendments to the Ship Security Plans (SSP) for Recognized Security Organization (RSO) duly cancelled.	August 2025
359	Guidance for the Implementation and Certification of the ISPS Code.	August 2025

VII. LIABILITY

180	Accession & Entry into force of the Bunkers Convention 2001.	September 2022
202	List of Approved Insurance Companies, Financial Security Providers and P&I Clubs (Insurers).	March 2026
241	Certificate of Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992 (CLC92).	November 2023
290	Accession of the Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea 2002.	January 2026
317	Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of wrecks 2007.	January 2026

VIII MARPOL

143	Condition Assessment Scheme (CAS).	November 2021
168	Approval of rate of Discharge of Sewage.	May 2022
178	Reports Alleging Inadequate MARPOL Port Reception Facilities.	November 2021
200	Revision of the IBC/BCH Code and MARPOL 73/78 Annex II.	October 2023
209	Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) management Plan.	October 2023
217	Ship to Ship Transfer (STS) Operations Plan.	January 2026
224	Control of the Fuel's Quality Guidelines.	August 2022
257	Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI).	October 2022
319	Fuel regulations at berth in Hong Kong.	September 2015
365	Panama Policy on SEEMP, IMO-DCS and Carbon Intensity Indicator.	February 2025
366	Adoption of Amendment to MARPOL 73/78 Annex V.	December 2023
369	Independent Companies Authorized by The Panama Maritime Authority for Data Collection.	January 2026
375	Ship Implementation Plan for the Consistent Implementation of the 0.50% Sulphur Limit under MARPOL Annex VI.	November 2021
376	Phase out and prohibition on installation of equipment containing ODS, including hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).	March 2024

VIII. MINIMUM SAFE MANNING

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251	Mobile Offshore Drilling Units and Mobile Offshore Units - High Speed Craft.	October 2023
261	Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006) - Medical Certification Models and Standards.	October 2023
262	Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006, as amended) - Employment Agreements of Seafarers.	November 2020
264	Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006) On-Board Complaints Procedure.	October 2023
265	Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006) – Occupational Groups (DEFINITIONS).	April 2023
268	Adopted Standards regarding watchkeeping, applicable to seafarers working onboard ships under Panamanian flag, according to the STCW'78 Convention, as amended, the MLC, 2006, amended and the national regulations.	December 2021
269	Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC). Certification Process.	January 2026
271	Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006) National Legislation.	August 2025
274	Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006) - Marine Casualties.	December 2024
275	Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006) – Regulation 3.2 – Food and Catering.	December 2023
278	Maritime Labour Convention MLC 2006 - Certification of Recruitment and Placement Agencies Regulation 1.4.	September 2023
279	Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006) – Certificate of Inspection of Crew Accommodation (CICA).	April 2023
283	Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006) – Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Services Guide.	June 2023

302	Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, amended (MLC). Exemption Certificate and Dispensation Letter. Title 3, Regulation 3.1, Standard A3.1 and Part B of the Code, Regarding accommodation and Recreational Facilities.	December 2021
336	Maritime Labour Convention (MLC, 2006), amendments regulations 2.5 (repatriation) and 4.2 (shipowner's liability).	June 2022
339	Medicine Chest and Medical Equipment.	August 2025
350	Resolution ADM No. 092-2017 of May 18 th 2017.	October 2023
367	Hazard Working Conditions.	November 2024
385	Chief Cook Dispensation Letter – (MLC 2006).	December 2023
403	Basic Recommendations minimize the Alcohol and drugs use and prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).	April 2025

X. OFFSHORE

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108	Publications and Records require on non-self-propelled units certified under the Mobile offshore Drilling Units Code.	November 2021
150	MODU Annual Safety Inspection.	April 2024
289	Bottom Surveys of Mobile Offshore Units (Drilling and non-Drilling) certificated under MODU Code adoption.	April 2014
292	Mobile Offshore Units (MOU) - Nondescript Units.	July 2014
328	Provisions for the training and certification of offshore personnel on board offshore units registered under the Panamanian flag.	November 2023

PAYMENT AND DISCOUNT

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260	Bunker Certificate Cost.	September 2022

XI. PIRACY

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243	Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC).	August 2025
245	Armed Security Personnel on board Panama flagged vessels transiting High Risk Areas.	April 2026

XIV PUBLICATION / LOGBOOKS

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107	Publications and Records require on vessels of 500 gross tonnage or above with International Registration in the Panamanian Registry.	October 2021
193	Optional and Voluntary System for Electronic Books or Electronic Record Books on board Panamanian Flagged Vessels.	April 2026
215	Panama Oil Record Book and Emissions (Amendments and Guidelines).	March 2026
218	Electronic Charts and Publications in regards to the Carriage Requirements and Crew Training on board Panama Flagged vessels.	November 2023
222	Publication of Marine Notices in the Segumar Web page.	October 2023

XV REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

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9	Registration and Inspection of Yachts.	October 2011
11	Mortgage Contract.	October 2011
12	Execution of Bill of Sale – Language Requirements.	October 2011
16	Registry of Vessels Under Construction which require "Patente" (Registration Number and Radio Call Letters before they are Completed in their Construction Phase.	September 2011

18	Required Documents for Ship Radio Stations.	October 2011
35	Bareboat Charter Flagging.	August 2022
60	Amendments to Panama Ship Mortgage Law.	October 2011
72	Consular Fees and Legalization's.	June 1992
84	Consular Visits to Panamanian Flag Vessels.	May 1993
151	Implementation of IMO Unique Company and Registered Owner Identification Number Scheme.	July 2025
169	Radio Accounting Authorities and Point Service Activations.	March 2026
210	Review of Executive Decree No. 49.	Mar 2010
232	Registration Annual Tax Casualty Investigation and Annual Safety Inspection Fees.	October 2011
233	Ship Registration.	September 2016
259	Annual Taxes Receipt (ATR).	November 2023
270	Fishing Vessels and other ships engaged in activities and support of capturing fishing resources operations.	April 2026
334	Compliance with GMDSS High Frequency Narrow Band Direct Printing Channeling Requirements.	March 2024
407	Welcome Guidance and Post Registration Requirements.	May 2026

XVI RO RSO AND CLASS

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136	Recognized Organizations authorized by the Panama Maritime Authority.	Mayo 2025
307	Code for Recognized Organizations (RO Code).	September 2023
324	Control and Administrative Fees imposed by the Republic of Panama to the Technical Documents, Statutory Certificates issued, endorsements and approvals.	January 2024
382	Panama Policy on Remote Surveys for Recognized Organizations and Recognized Security Organizations.	April 2021

383	List of Recognized Organizations whose rules have been confirmed as conforming to the GBS.	March 2023
386	Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM) for ships calling at EU ports.	August 2025

XVII SEAFARES

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175	Crew Dispensations.	June 2021
181	Responsibilities of companies under Regulation I/14 of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended.	October 2023
235	Adoption of Panama to the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW 1978 as amended.	April 2026
311	New Regulations for Maritime Training Centers.	May 2023
331	Samples of certificates and seafarers' documentation implemented and approved by the Panama Maritime Authority.	March 2026
332	General Directorate of Seafarer's Broker's Database Program.	May 2023
343	List of State Parties of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, that have communicated information which demonstrates that full and complete effect is given to the provisions of the Convention (White List).	January 2025
344	(Certificate of Competency (CoC) and Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) issued for non-nationals).	January 2025
351	New seal in the Seaman's Book that ratifies that the Republic of Panama accomplishes with the Convention 108 of the ILO and the article VI of the STCW'78 Convention amended.	May 2023
396	Regulation for the issuance of the Certificate of Inspection of Crew Accommodation (CICA) and its exemptions, dispensations and authorizations of the Ship Registry of the Republic of Panama.	March 2022

406	Transitional provisions regarding the new 2024 Amendments to the STCW Code on prevention and response to violence and harassment, including bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault.	December 2025
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144	Carriage of Immersion Suits carries onboard Panamanian Flagged Vessels.	February 2023
155	Automatic Identification System (AIS).	October 2023
158	EPIRB Registration.	January 2023
161	Voyage Data Recorder (VDR) and Simplified Voyage Data Recorder (S-VDR) annual test and its Performance Standards.	September 2024
164	Guidelines on early assessment of hull damage and possible need for abandonment of bulk carriers on board of Panamanian Flagged Vessels.	November 2023
166	Other means of embarkation for remotely located survival crafts.	November 2023
194	Approval of the use of Viking Liferaft Type S30.	July 2021
195	Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT).	April 2026
203	Material Safety Data Sheet.	October 2023
229	Bridge Navigation Watch Alarm System (BNWAS).	November 2023
246	Protective Coatings of Dedicated Seawater Ballast Tanks in all Types of Ships and Double- side Skin Spaces of Bulk Carriers (PSPC).	October 2023

250	Lifeboat Release and Retrieval System.	October 2023
258	Authorized service providers for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear.	May 2026
277	Fire Control Plan graphical symbols.	June 2022
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287	Earlier Implementation of Amendment to SOLAS Reg. V/19.1.2 (BNWAS installation).	January 2014
372	Early Implementation of SOLAS Regulations II-2/Regulation 1 and II-2/Regulation 10.	November 2023
378	Announcement of Resolution entry in force January 1st 2020 for Amendments to the International CODE for Fire Safety SYSTEM (FSS CODE).	November 2023
387	Mandatory Implementation of the Amendments to the 2011 ESP Code.	September 2020
392	International Code of the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code).	May 2021
394	Marine Evacuation System (MES) Procedure.	June 2021
395	IGF CODE.	March 2025
399	Statutory requirements for a Single International Voyage.	August 2023
400	Use of AIS and/or LRIT onboard fishing vessels.	March 2024
401	International Code of Safety for Ships Carrying Industrial Personnel (IP Code).	June 2024
408	Application and interpretation of Chapter II-1/Reg. 3-13 – “Lifting appliances and anchor handling winches”, MSC.1/Circ.1662 – “Guidelines for Anchor Handling Winches” and MSC.1/Circ.1663 – “Guidelines for Lifting Appliances”.	April 2026

XIX. TECHNICAL POLICIES

30	Observance of Traffic Separation Schemes.	November 2023
152	Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), 2019.	May 2024

156	Exemption, Conditional, Interim and Full-Term Certificates.	April 2024
157	Control of Anti-Fouling System on Ships.	October 2023
167	Crew Boat Requirements.	November 2023
192	Guidance on “Type Approvals” and “satisfaction of the Administration”.	March 2024
204	Outside Ship Bottom inspection and Dry-docking Interface Periods for Panamanian Flagged Vessels.	April 2024
214	Mandatory Implementation of the Amendments to the IMSBC Code.	December 2023
216	Code of the safety for Caribbean Cargo Ships (CCSS Code).	November 2023
267	Notification of Resolution No. 106-146-DGMM.	January 2021
288	Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships 2008 as Amended.	June 2024
299	Regulation for the Safety of Vessels Under 500 GRT.	September 2023
304	Implementation of New Ship’s Routing System in Panama.	March 2022
313	Validity of Color Copies of Original Documents.	November 2023
355	Use of Electronic Certificate onboard.	August 2023
389	Panama Policy for Maritime Anti-Corruption Matters.	March 2021
391	Multiple Load Line Certificate Operational Procedure.	May 2024

XX. TONNAGE

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XXI. RESTRICTED VESSELS

360	Ships that assist North Korea will be captured and processed.	July 2025
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XXII. YACHT

370	Yacht Technical Policy.	November 2023
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The Panama Maritime Authority, always committed to providing a service of excellence, has compiled all Merchant Marine Circulars into a more user-friendly digital format (E-book) for easier and more convenient reference. Users may also print and keep a copy on board, if so required.

For any comments or inquiries, please send your correspondence to: cumplimientodgmm@amp.gob.pa

Registered users are invited to contact the nearest Segumar Office at their convenience: Tokyo and Imabari (Japan), Piraeus (Greece), Seoul and Busan (Republic of Korea), Manila (Philippines), Singapore, Shanghai (China), Hong Kong (China), Dubai (UAE), London (United Kingdom), Istanbul (Türkiye), Houston and Miami (United States), and Panamá.

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