



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.

## **CATEGORIES**

### **Page**

|                                               |           |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>I. BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT CONVENTION</b> | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>II. CASUALTY INVESTIGATIONS</b>            | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>III. CONSULAR OFFICE</b>                   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>IV. INSPECTIONS / PSC / ASI</b>            | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>V. ISM CODE</b>                            | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>VI. ISPS CODE</b>                          | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>VII. LIABILITY</b>                         | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>VIII. MARPOL</b>                           | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>IX. MINIMUM SAFE MANNING</b>               | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>X. MLC</b>                                 | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>XI. OFFSHORE</b>                           | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>XII. PAYMENTS AND DISCOUNTS</b>            | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>XIII. PIRACY</b>                           | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>XIV. PUBLICATION / LOGBOOKS</b>            | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>XV. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT</b>           | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>XVI. RO RSO AND CLASS</b>                  | <b>10</b> |
| <b>XVII. SEAFARERS</b>                        | <b>11</b> |
| <b>XVIII. SOLAS</b>                           | <b>12</b> |
| <b>XIX. TECHNICAL POLICIES</b>                | <b>13</b> |
| <b>XX. TONNAGE</b>                            | <b>14</b> |
| <b>XXI. RESTRICTED VESSELS</b>                | <b>14</b> |
| <b>XXII. YACHT</b>                            | <b>14</b> |

## **I. BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT CONVENTION**

|            |                                                                                               |              |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>345</b> | Ballast Water Management Convention 2004, Panama Policy.                                      | March 2026   |
| <b>362</b> | List of accepted Companies with type approval Certificate of Ballast Water Management System. | January 2024 |

## **II. CASUALTY INVESTIGATIONS**

|            |                                                                                                 |              |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>170</b> | Night Time Lookout.                                                                             | October 2023 |
| <b>184</b> | Casualty Investigations of Panama flagged vessels.                                              | October 2023 |
| <b>340</b> | Application of Annex 14 of the Code of Safe Practice for Cargo Stowage and Securing (CSS Code). | October 2023 |

## **III. CONSULAR OFFICE**

|            |                                                                                                           |               |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>3</b>   | List of Merchant Marine Consular Offices.                                                                 | November 2023 |
| <b>266</b> | Notification of the Consulate of the Republic of Panama in Turkey as a Merchant Marine Private Consulate. | February 2013 |

## **IV. INSPECTIONS /PSC/ASI**

|            |                                                                     |               |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>171</b> | Online Ship Status – ASI.                                           | July 2024     |
| <b>201</b> | Correction of Deficiencies found in ASI Inspection.                 | May 2023      |
| <b>373</b> | Global Maritime Safety Inspection Platform Implementation (GMSIPI). | December 2023 |
| <b>374</b> | Companies Representing the Flag State Inspectors.                   | June 2026     |
| <b>379</b> | Procedure for Port State Control (PSC).                             | July 2024     |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>384</b> | Guidelines for Appeals Process Against Port State Control Deficiencies / Detentions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | October 2022   |
| <b>404</b> | 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     |
| <b>405</b> | Fleet Risk Assessment and Performance Monitoring Accelerated Program (FRA & PMAP).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | September 2025 |

## **V. ISM CODE**

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

## **VI. ISPS CODE**

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

## VII. LIABILITY

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

## VIII MARPOL

|            |                                                                                                                    |                |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>143</b> | Condition Assessment Scheme (CAS).                                                                                 | November 2021  |
| <b>168</b> | Approval of rate of Discharge of Sewage.                                                                           | May 2022       |
| <b>178</b> | Reports Alleging Inadequate MARPOL Port Reception Facilities.                                                      | November 2021  |
| <b>200</b> | Revision of the IBC/BCH Code and MARPOL 73/78 Annex II.                                                            | October 2023   |
| <b>209</b> | Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) management Plan.                                                                  | October 2023   |
| <b>217</b> | Ship to Ship Transfer (STS) Operations Plan.                                                                       | January 2026   |
| <b>224</b> | Control of the Fuel's Quality Guidelines.                                                                          | August 202     |
| <b>257</b> | Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI).                                                       | October 2022   |
| <b>319</b> | Fuel regulations at berth in Hong Kong.                                                                            | September 2015 |
| <b>365</b> | Panama Policy on SEEMP, IMO-DCS and Carbon Intensity Indicator.                                                    | February 2025  |
| <b>366</b> | Adoption of Amendment to MARPOL 73/78 Annex V.                                                                     | December 2023  |
| <b>369</b> | Independent Companies Authorized by The Panama Maritime Authority for Data Collection.                             | January 2026   |
| <b>375</b> | Ship Implementation Plan for the Consistent Implementation of the 0.50% Sulphur Limit under MARPOL Annex VI.       | November 2021  |
| <b>376</b> | Phase out and prohibition on installation of equipment containing ODS, including hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). | March 2024     |

### VIII. MINIMUM SAFE MANNING

|     |                                     |                |
|-----|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 285 | Principles of Minimum Safe Manning. | September 2023 |
|-----|-------------------------------------|----------------|

### IX. MLC

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 130 | Maritime Labor Inspections.                                                                                                                                                                                          | May 2023       |
| 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.                                                                                                                                           | June 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      |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |               |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>302</b> | 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 |
| <b>336</b> | Maritime Labour Convention (MLC, 2006), amendments regulations 2.5 (repatriation) and 4.2 (shipowner's liability).                                                                                                  | June 2022     |
| <b>339</b> | Medicine Chest and Medical Equipment.                                                                                                                                                                               | August 2025   |
| <b>350</b> | Resolution ADM No. 092-2017 of May 18 <sup>th</sup> 2017.                                                                                                                                                           | October 2023  |
| <b>367</b> | Hazard Working Conditions.                                                                                                                                                                                          | November 2024 |
| <b>385</b> | Chief Cook Dispensation Letter – (MLC 2006).                                                                                                                                                                        | December 2023 |
| <b>403</b> | Basic Recommendations minimize the Alcohol and drugs use and prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).                                                                  | April 2025    |

## X. OFFSHORE

|            |                                                                                                                                   |               |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>87</b>  | MODU Code" 1979 & 1989.                                                                                                           | October 2023  |
| <b>108</b> | Publications and Records require on non-self-propelled units certified under the Mobile offshore Drilling Units Code.             | November 2021 |
| <b>150</b> | MODU Annual Safety Inspection.                                                                                                    | April 2024    |
| <b>289</b> | Bottom Surveys of Mobile Offshore Units (Drilling and non-Drilling) certificated under MODU Code adoption.                        | April 2014    |
| <b>292</b> | Mobile Offshore Units (MOU) - Nondescript Units.                                                                                  | July 2014     |
| <b>328</b> | Provisions for the training and certification of offshore personnel on board offshore units registered under the Panamanian flag. | November 2023 |

## PAYMENT AND DISCOUNT

|            |                                        |                |
|------------|----------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>219</b> | Payments to Panama Maritime Authority. | January 2023   |
| <b>260</b> | Bunker Certificate Cost.               | September 2022 |

## **XI. PIRACY**

|            |                                                                                      |             |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>230</b> | Ship Protection Measures to Pirates Attacks.                                         | April 2026  |
| <b>243</b> | Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC).                                          | August 2025 |
| <b>245</b> | Armed Security Personnel on board Panama flagged vessels transiting High Risk Areas. | June 2026   |

## **XIV PUBLICATION / LOGBOOKS**

|            |                                                                                                                                       |               |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>71</b>  | Official Documents on Board Panamanian Flag Vessels and Standard Fees.                                                                | October 2023  |
| <b>107</b> | Publications and Records require on vessels of 500 gross tonnage or above with International Registration in the Panamanian Registry. | October 2021  |
| <b>193</b> | Optional and Voluntary System for Electronic Books or Electronic Record Books on board Panamanian Flagged Vessels.                    | July 2026     |
| <b>215</b> | Panama Oil Record Book and Emissions (Amendments and Guidelines).                                                                     | March 2026    |
| <b>218</b> | Electronic Charts and Publications in regards to the Carriage Requirements and Crew Training on board Panama Flagged vessels.         | November 2023 |
| <b>222</b> | Publication of Marine Notices in the Segumar Web page.                                                                                | October 2023  |

## **XV REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT**

|           |                                                                                                                                                                   |                |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>8</b>  | Amendments to the Vessel Registration (Navigation Patentee).                                                                                                      | October 2011   |
| <b>9</b>  | Registration and Inspection of Yachts.                                                                                                                            | October 2011   |
| <b>11</b> | Mortgage Contract.                                                                                                                                                | October 2011   |
| <b>12</b> | Execution of Bill of Sale – Language Requirements.                                                                                                                | October 2011   |
| <b>16</b> | Registry of Vessels Under Construction which require "Patente" (Registration Number and Radio Call Letters before they are Completed in their Construction Phase. | September 2011 |

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

## **XVI RO RSO AND CLASS**

|            |                                                                                                                                                          |                |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>88</b>  | Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan.                                                                                                                  | February 2022  |
| <b>136</b> | Recognized Organizations authorized by the Panama Maritime Authority.                                                                                    | Mayo 2025      |
| <b>307</b> | Code for Recognized Organizations (RO Code).                                                                                                             | September 2023 |
| <b>324</b> | Control and Administrative Fees imposed by the Republic of Panama to the Technical Documents, Statutory Certificates issued, endorsements and approvals. | January 2024   |
| <b>382</b> | Panama Policy on Remote Surveys for Recognized Organizations and Recognized Security Organizations.                                                      | April 2021     |

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

## XVII SEAFARES

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |               |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>153</b> | Crew Roll Logbook Endorsement.                                                                                                                                                                                | December 2023 |
| <b>175</b> | Crew Dispensations.                                                                                                                                                                                           | June 2026     |
| <b>181</b> | Responsibilities of companies under Regulation I/14 of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended.                                                                                                                  | October 2023  |
| <b>235</b> | Adoption of Panama to the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW 1978 as amended.                                                                                                                                 | April 2026    |
| <b>311</b> | New Regulations for Maritime Training Centers.                                                                                                                                                                | May 2023      |
| <b>331</b> | Samples of certificates and seafarers' documentation implemented and approved by the Panama Maritime Authority.                                                                                               | March 2026    |
| <b>332</b> | General Directorate of Seafarer's Broker's Database Program.                                                                                                                                                  | May 2023      |
| <b>343</b> | 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  |
| <b>344</b> | (Certificate of Competency (CoC) and Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) issued for non-nationals).                                                                                                              | January 2025  |
| <b>351</b> | 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      |
| <b>396</b> | 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    |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                             |               |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>406</b> | 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 |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|

## XVIII SOLAS

|            |                                                                                                                                          |                |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>68</b>  | Manning of survival craft and supervision.                                                                                               | November 2023  |
| <b>112</b> | EPIRB Programming and registration.                                                                                                      | December 2020  |
| <b>113</b> | Compliance with mandatory Ship reporting systems.                                                                                        | October 2023   |
| <b>138</b> | Magnetic Compass.                                                                                                                        | April 2024     |
| <b>142</b> | Emergency Escape Breathing Devices (EEBD).                                                                                               | November 2023  |
| <b>144</b> | Carriage of Immersion Suits carries onboard Panamanian Flagged Vessels.                                                                  | February 2023  |
| <b>155</b> | Automatic Identification System (AIS).                                                                                                   | October 2023   |
| <b>158</b> | EPIRB Registration.                                                                                                                      | January 2023   |
| <b>161</b> | Voyage Data Recorder (VDR) and Simplified Voyage Data Recorder (S-VDR) annual test and its Performance Standards.                        | September 2024 |
| <b>164</b> | Guidelines on early assessment of hull damage and possible need for abandonment of bulk carriers on board of Panamanian Flagged Vessels. | November 2023  |
| <b>166</b> | Other means of embarkation for remotely located survival crafts.                                                                         | November 2023  |
| <b>194</b> | Approval of the use of Viking Liferaft Type S30.                                                                                         | July 2021      |
| <b>195</b> | Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT).                                                                                  | April 2026     |
| <b>203</b> | Material Safety Data Sheet.                                                                                                              | October 2023   |
| <b>229</b> | Bridge Navigation Watch Alarm System (BNWAS).                                                                                            | November 2023  |
| <b>246</b> | Protective Coatings of Dedicated Seawater Ballast Tanks in all Types of Ships and Double- side Skin Spaces of Bulk Carriers (PSPC).      | October 2023   |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>250</b> | Lifeboat Release and Retrieval System.                                                                                                                                                                                             | October 2023   |
| <b>258</b> | Authorized service providers for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear.                                                 | May 2026       |
| <b>277</b> | Fire Control Plan graphical symbols.                                                                                                                                                                                               | June 2022      |
| <b>281</b> | Guidelines for the Maintenance Inspection of Fire-Protection System and Appliances.                                                                                                                                                | October 2022   |
| <b>287</b> | Earlier Implementation of Amendment to SOLAS Reg. V/19.1.2 (BNWAS installation).                                                                                                                                                   | January 2014   |
| <b>372</b> | Early Implementation of SOLAS Regulations II-2/Regulation 1 and II-2/Regulation 10.                                                                                                                                                | November 2023  |
| <b>378</b> | Announcement of Resolution entry in force January 1st 2020 for Amendments to the International CODE for Fire Safety SYSTEM (FSS CODE).                                                                                             | November 2023  |
| <b>387</b> | Mandatory Implementation of the Amendments to the 2011 ESP Code.                                                                                                                                                                   | September 2020 |
| <b>392</b> | International Code of the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code).                                                                                                                         | May 2021       |
| <b>394</b> | Marine Evacuation System (MES) Procedure.                                                                                                                                                                                          | June 2021      |
| <b>395</b> | IGF CODE.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | March 2025     |
| <b>399</b> | Statutory requirements for a Single International Voyage.                                                                                                                                                                          | August 2023    |
| <b>400</b> | Use of AIS and/or LRIT onboard fishing vessels.                                                                                                                                                                                    | March 2024     |
| <b>401</b> | International Code of Safety for Ships Carrying Industrial Personnel (IP Code).                                                                                                                                                    | June 2024      |
| <b>408</b> | 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**

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

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

## XX. TONNAGE

|           |                                   |           |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>67</b> | Issuance of Tonnage Certificates. | July 2023 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|

## XXI. RESTRICTED VESSELS

|            |                                                               |           |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>360</b> | Ships that assist North Korea will be captured and processed. | July 2025 |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|

## XXII. YACHT

|            |                         |               |
|------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| <b>370</b> | Yacht Technical Policy. | November 2023 |
|------------|-------------------------|---------------|

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.

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Consolidated and effective as of July 31, 2026.