



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

MERCHANT MARINE NOTICE

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“Classification Society Approvals to perform review, examine, survey, or certify the construction, repair, or alteration of a vessel in the United States”

No: MN-009/2016

July, 2016

1. The purpose of this circular is to communicate to Ship-owners/Operators, Legal Representative of Panamanian Flag Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Recognized Organizations (ROs), the content of the 2010 Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act amended the 46 U.S.C. 3316(c).
2. This statute establishes that a Classification Society may not review, examine, survey, or certify the construction, repair, or alteration of a vessel in the United States unless it is approved by the US Coast Guard.
3. The following is quoted from the Act:

SEC. 622. Delegation of Authority

(b) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY REQUIREDS Section 3316 (c) of Title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking so much as precedes paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(c) (1) A classification society (including an employee or agent of that Society) may not review, examine, survey or certify the construction, repair or alteration of a vessel in the United States unless the society has applied for approval under this subsection and the Secretary has reviewed and approved that society with respect to the conduct of that society under paragraph (2).”

4. Please note that each country is sovereign of the application of the requirements that they stipulate in their territorial waters.
5. When the review, examine, survey, or certification of the construction, repair, or alteration of a vessel into the United States, is needed, and the Recognized Organization has not been Approved by the US Coast Guard, the RO shall provide drawings, approved materials, personnel and any other information related to the intended draft, must be send to the email psc@amp.gob.pa, before this is done, for approval of the Administration. Please note that the breach of this instruction hinders to our Administration to provide an appropriate and timely assistance.
6. This Administration exhorts Ship-owners/Operators, Legal Representative of Panamanian Flag Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Recognized Organizations (ROs) are recommended to not omit compliance mentioned above and thus avoid delays or misunderstandings with the US Coast Guard.
7. For further reference, please find the following link with the information of the Classification Society Approvals; http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgcvc/cvc2/psc/society_approvals.asp

July, 2016 – New point 5 is included

June 02nd, 2016 – First issue

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Notice should be directed to:

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