



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-232

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To: **Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (ROs).**

Subject: **Registration, Annual Tax, Casualty Investigation and Annual Safety Inspection Fees**

Reference:

- Fiscal Code of Panama
- Law No.4 of February 24, 1983
- Law 19 of August 3, 1992
- Law 57 of August 6, 2008

This Circular supersedes MMC-4

1. According to Article 2 Law 19 dated August 3rd, 1992 the following registration fees are established for vessels in international service:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| a. For vessels up to 2,000 GRT | \$ 500.00 |
| b. For vessels more than 2,000 GRT up to 5,000 GRT | \$ 2,000.00 |
| c. For vessels more than 5,000 GRT but up to 15,000 GRT | \$ 3,000.00 |
| d. For vessels more than 15,000 GRT | \$ 3,000.00 |
- (plus \$0.10 for each GRT or fraction above to 15,000 GRT
a maximum total registration fee of \$ 6,500.00)

2. According to Article 3 Law No. 19 dated August 3rd, 1992, vessels of international service will be subject to the following fees when they incur in any modifications or alterations of the information stated in the Statutory Certificate of Register, or due to performance of administrative acts regarding documentation of such vessels:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| a. Change of ownership of a vessel | \$ 1,000.00 |
|------------------------------------|-------------|

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- b. Change of tonnage due to modification of the structure of the vessel or due to compliance with rules of the International Tonnage Convention, 1969 \$ 1,000.00
- c. Change of the name of the vessel/and/or the name of the owner of the vessel \$ 1,000.00
- d. Change of the Radio Accounting Authority \$ 500.00
- e. Deletion from the Panamanian Registry \$ 1,000.00

3. Moreover, Article 3 Law No. 19 of August 3rd, 1992 also establishes fees for the issuance of the following documents or certificates:

- f. Statutory Certificate of Registry due to loss, damage or renewal \$300.00
- g. Reservation of Name for a vessel, payable at the moment of the registration (valid for 30 days) \$ 20.00
- h. Registration of a Charter Party for vessels
Under registered under the Law No.11 of
January 25th, 1973 **** \$ 150.00
(plus \$0.20 for each
or fraction thereof)

*** Law No.11 dated January 25, repealed through Law No.57 dated August 6, 2008. In replacement of the above mentioned Law, it is Chapter IV, Section No.1 of Law No.57 dated August 6, 2008 that rules the Registry of Foreign Vessels in Panama under a Bareboat Charter Party.

- i. Radio Station Statutory License due to loss, damage or renewal \$ 200.00
- i. Renewal or extension of the validity of the Provisional Statutory Certificate of Registry \$ 50.00
(per month)
- k. Renewal or extension of the validity of the Provisional Radio Station Statutory License \$ 150.00
(for every 3
month period)

4. According to Article 7 of Law No. 14 dated May 27th, 1980, the following fees shall apply when regarding to *titles of deeds* of vessels:

- a. For the service and issuance of Certificates of preliminary registration of title deeds of vessels \$ 450.00
- b. For the service and issuance of Certificates of preliminary registration of titles of ship mortgages:

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- (i) For the first two million dollars of the total amount of the mortgage \$ 450.00
- (ii) For each additional million dollars, or fraction thereof, with a maximum limit of fees of \$1,200: \$ 150.00

5. Pursuant to Article 3 of Law No.4 dated February 4, 1983, all vessels registered in the National Merchant Marine for International Services for International Services shall pay an annual tax of \$ 0.10 per NRT or fraction thereof.

6. According to Article 4 of the Law No.4 dated February 4th, 1983, all vessels in registered in the National Merchant Marine for International Services shall pay an annual consular fee, as follows:

- a. Vessels for international service engaged in maritime trade, including General Cargo, Passenger Ships, Fishing Boats, Dredgers, Ferry Boats, Tugboats, and Drilling Units:
 - (i) Up to 1,000 GRT \$ 1,200.00
 - (ii) More than 1,000 GRT up to 3,000 GRT \$ 1,800.00
 - (iii) More than 3,000 GRT up to 5,000 GRT \$ 2,000.00
 - (iv) More than 5,000 GRT up to 15,000 GRT \$ 2,700.00
 - (v) More than 15,000 GRT \$ 3,000.00
- b. Vessels for international service without self-propulsion and ships engaged in scientific research activities, supply vessels, submarines, crew boats, exploration ships, floating dry-docks, and other vessels engaged in non-profitable and non-commercial activities, except those described in the preceding paragraph:
 - (i) Up to 500 GRT \$ 850.00
 - (ii) More than 500 GRT up to 1,000 GRT \$ 1,400.00
 - (iii) More than 1,000 GRT \$ 1,800.00

c. Pursuant to Section 4, Article 96 of Law 57 dated August 6, 2008, regarding LEISURE CRAFT, every type of vessels engaged in non-profitable activities dedicated to sports, private or pleasure else or activities, are allowed to be, register in the Panamanian Merchant Marine. Nevertheless, according to Article 5 of Law 19 dated August 3, 1992 these non-commercial Leisure craft should pay a single rate of Us \$1500.00 every two (2) years. However if the vessels is proper of a Panamanian Owner, this single rate will be of us\$1000.00

7. According to Article 5 of Law No.4 dated February 4th, 1983, all vessels of registered in the National Merchant Marine fleet for International Service shall pay annual safety inspection fees as follows:

- a. Passenger Vessels
 - (i) Up to 1,600 GRT \$ 900.00
 - (ii) More than 1,600 GRT \$ 1,800.00
- b. Tankers and Cargo Vessels
 - (i) Up to 500 GRT \$ 500.00
 - (ii) More than 500 GRT and up to 1,600 GRT \$ 750.00
 - (iii) More than 1,600 GRT and up to 5,000 GRT \$ 850.00
 - (iv) More than 5,000 GRT and up to 15,000 GRT \$ 1,000.00

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- (v) More than 15,000 GRT \$ 1,200.00
- c. Drilling Units \$ 1,300.00
- d. Any other vessel not included in the above mentioned section:
 - (i) Up to 500 GRT \$ 500.00
 - (ii) More than 500 GRT and up to 5,000 GRT \$ 800.00
 - (iii) More than 5,000 GRT \$ 1,000.00

Note: The interested parties must pay all additional expenses when the Directorate General of Merchant Marine may incur on inspections carried out in places other than those provided for such purposes. In addition, if there is a need for extra-ordinary inspections or re-inspections, these provisions will also apply.

8. According to Article 6 of Law No.4 dated February 24, 1983 all vessels registered in the National Merchant Marine international service fleet shall pay an annual rate for casualty investigations and for the participation of this Administration in international conferences as follows:

- a. Oil tankers, drilling units, passenger vessels, gas tankers and Chemical tankers \$ 850.00
- b. Other types of vessels not specified above:
 - (i) Up to 500 GRT \$ 300.00
 - (ii) More than 500 GRT and up to 10,000 GRT \$ 400.00
 - (iii) More than 10,000 GRT \$ 500.00

(Vessels above listed shall pay \$0.03 per each NRT or fraction thereof).

Note: Leisure crafts not engaged in lucrative activities and vessels without self-propulsion, except drilling units, are exempted from this provision.

9. Other fees may apply due to the regulations.

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**Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to:
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