

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

Ministry of Finance and Treasury

Office of the Directorate of Merchant Marine Circular No. 31

Consular and Maritime Affairs

To: Shipowners/Operators, Masters and Approved Class Societies

Subject: Investigation of Serious Casualties

Reference: - SOLAS 1974/81/83

- Resolution 614-232-ALCN dated 25 April 1980

1. Reference is made to Chapter I, Regulation 21 of SOLAS 74/81/83 Convention, which mandates that each contracting government undertakes to conduct an investigation of any casualty occurring to any of its vessels.
2. In the event of casualties involving Panamanian Flag vessels, the owners/operators of the vessel shall file a formal casualty report detailing the circumstances surrounding the accident. This report should include copy of statement of facts, note of protest, report of underwriter's survey, repair plans if any, and any other information that might be useful in determining the circumstances of the casualty.
3. According to the Resolution 614-232-ALCN, the Authorized Class Societies might be requested by the D.G.C.M.A. to collaborate with the New York Office in any casualty investigation and to provide any pertinent information about the ship which may be requested in the course of such proceedings.
4. In the event of major casualties, especially in the case of foundering and loss of life, these authorized organizations shall additionally provide the following:
 - 1 A report of the last survey carried out by the organization's surveyors.
 - 1 A report of the last dry docking survey.
 - 1 A report of the last special survey conducted on the vessel.
1. Based on the results of the initial investigation of the casualty, the D.G.C.M.A. may initiate a formal Board of Investigation on the event.
2. The casualty report should be directed to the D.G.C.M.A., New York Office at 1180 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor; New York, N.Y. 10036.

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular should be directed to:
Directorate of Consular and Maritime Affairs, New York Representative Office,
Republic of Panama, 1180 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor
New York, New York 10036, U.S.A.