



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF SEAFARERS**

**MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-303**

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**To: Ship-owners/Operators, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates, Recognized Organizations (RO's), Inspectorates, Authorized Regional Offices and Seafarers.**

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**Subject: DISPENSATION FOR SHIP'S COOK COURSE.**

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**Reference: Regulation 3.2 of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC, 2006).**

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- 1- The purpose of this Circular is to inform all users that the General Directorate of Seafarers, has established new dispositions according to Regulation 3.2, Standard A3.2 of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC, 2006).
- 2- The Standard A3.2, paragraph 6 of the MLC, 2006, allows in circumstances of exceptional necessity to issue a dispensation to those cooks on board vessels, as long as they demonstrate to be properly trained or instructed in areas including food, personal hygiene, food storage, handling and storage of food on board ships.
- 3- Considering the aforementioned, this Maritime Administration has decided to grant a **DISPENSATION LETTER**, to those cooks holding a ship's cook training course certificate, issued or approved by a Maritime Administration that doesn't comply with the requirements established on paragraph 4 of Circular MMC-275.
- 4- The **DISPENSATION LETTER** will have a validity of three (3) months and will permit to work on board Panamanian flagged vessels as a cook.
- 5- To request a **DISPENSATION LETTER**, you must submit a formal application through a Recognized Organization authorized to issue the Maritime Labour Certificate 2006 or the CICA, attaching as evidence the ship's cook training course certificate and copy of the cook's license. The cost will be the same required for a Dispensation in accordance with ILO No. 92, that is, One Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars (USD.125.00).

**June, 2023 – CANCELLED.  
November, 2014.**

**Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to:  
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Control N°: F-RIN-04-01	Version: 05	Date: 21 January, 2013	Page 1 of 1