

Panama Maritime Authority
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
International Representative Office, New York

Merchant Marine Circular No. 115

To: Owners/Operators and Masters of Panamanian Registered Merchant Vessels

Subject: Implementation of the ISM Code for Other Cargo Ships and Mobile Drilling Units of 500 gross tonnage and upward – Required Reporting date.

The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to remind shipowners/operators and masters of Panamanian registered ships of the full implementation of The International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention (ISM Code). This Code became mandatory for certain ships as from July 1, 1998 by adoption of Chapter IX to SOLAS 74. Also, owners are reminded of Merchant Marine Circular No.97 issued on April 1997 and of IMO Resolution A.880(21).

Resolution A. 880(21) adopted by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization on November 25 1999, was established in order to have an effective implementation of the Code. It urges to take urgent appropriate action to ensure application of the ISM Code to other cargo ships and mobile offshore drilling units of 500 gross tonnage and upwards by July 1, 2002.

Merchant Marine Circular No. 97 requests that shipowners/managers report to this office the status of compliance with the ISM Code for Panamanian ships that must comply with the ISM Code by July 1, 2002. The report must be submitted to this office not later than November 1, 2001. For the applicability of the ISM Code, owners/managers are reminded that only the tonnage under the 1969 Convention is to be used.

It is understood that by July 1, 2002, all vessels to which the ISM Code applies must be in compliance with the ISM Code, and that no extension will be granted as stated in Resolution A.880(21).

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