

Merchant Marine Circular

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Department of Control and Compliance

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-299

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

Subject: Regulation for the Safety of Vessels under 500GRT

Reference: Resolution No. 106-138-DGMM, 10 September, 2013

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Merchant Marine Circular supersedes **MMC-38**.
- 1.2. The purpose of this Circular is to inform all users that the Panamanian Administration through Resolution No. 106-138-DGMM, dated 10 September 2013 establishes the applicable regulation to all cargo vessels of the Republic of Panama under 500 GRT holding an international Registry Certificate, aiming to achieve the highest levels of safety of life at sea and sea environment. In this sense, Decree 45 of 21 December, 1981 is deemed without legal effect.

2. Background

- 2.1. The content of Resolution No. 106-138-DGMM is the same as Decree 45, for that reason, the certification giving proof of the compliance with the Resolution is the same as Decree 45. Furthermore, Recognized Organizations authorized to issue the Decree 45 certificates are automatically authorized to issue the certificates of this Resolution.

3. Application

- 3.1. The current Resolution 106-138-DGMM applies to:
 - 3.1.1. all cargo vessels of the Republic of Panama under 500 GRT holding an international Registry Certificate.



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3.1.2. Crew boats according to the Equivalency reported to IMO by the Republic of Panama and communicated to Member States through Circular SLS 14/Circ.23. Refer to our MMC-167.

3.2. The Resolution 106-138-DGMM does not apply to:

- a) Ships of less than 100 GRT or less than 24 m in length.
- b) Non propelled vessels.
- c) Pleasure yacht not engaged in trade.
- d) Fishing Vessels.

The Directorate General of Merchant Marine is entitled, in those cases which are deemed appropriate, to waive any requirement of these rules to any existing ship, if it is found that these requirements are impractical, with non-sense to be applied or by any other reason regarded cautious to exempt those ships.

4. Exemptions

4.1. In case of vessel not equipped with some specific survival crafts (i.e. Life Boat, Rescue Boat) it will be limited to operate within 20 nautical miles from the nearest shore.

4.2. In the event the vessel's operating area shall be more than the said 20 nautical miles from the nearest shore, she must apply for an Exemption Certificate to operate within a greater operation area under the conditions approved by this Administration. Such Exemption Certificates might include life rafts arrangement upon the vessel's operation area.

5. Instructions to Recognized Organizations

5.1. All Recognized Organizations duly authorized to issue the certificates related to this regulation are instructed to modify the header of the Interim Cargo Ship Certificates for vessels under 500GRT, Interim Cargo Ship Safety Radiotelephony Certificates for vessels under 300 GRT and its Records to refer the Resolution No. 106-138-DGMM, dated 10 September 2013.

5.2. Having considered the content of the above indicated Resolution this Administration has changed forms of the Interim Cargo Ship Certificates for vessels under 500GRT and Interim Cargo Ship Safety Radiotelephony Certificates for vessels under 300 GRT in order to comply with the model established on this Resolution.



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5.3. Please be reminded that:

- 5.3.1.** Interim Certificates are not subject to extensions,
- 5.3.2.** Full-term Certificates are issued by this Administration,
- 5.3.3.** Full-term Certificates might be extended only after previous authorization from this Administration.
- 5.3.4.** Name of the surveyor shall be reflected on the Interim Certificates.

September, 2023 – *Whole Merchant Marine Circular revised.*

August, 2015 - *New paragraph 6 added*

February, 2015 – *changes in paragraph 1*

October, 2014

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Circular or any other request should be forward to:

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