

PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

Directorate General of Merchant Marine

Office of the Department Of Maritime Safety

Merchant Marine Circular No.105

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian flag Vessels, Class Societies and Authorized Organizations

Subject: Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Fines

Due to the fact that:

- the GMDSS equipment requirements for 1 February 1999 were announced seven years ago;
- many shipowners/operators waited to the last minute to order the equipment and make the installations;
- manufacturers of the equipment cannot meet the last minute demand for equipment;
- Port State Control Authorities will detain vessels that are found not in compliance with the GMDSS requirements after 1 February 1999 or that do not have proper documentation from the flag regarding an extension for implementation;

the Directorate General of Merchant Marine has established the following fines for failure to comply with the GMDSS requirements on time:

- A. Extensions may be granted only to those vessels that have ordered the equipment and have a definite delivery and installation date. Fines for these extensions shall be imposed as follows:
1. Extensions for the installation of the GMDSS equipment required by 1 February 1999 will be granted before 1 February 1999 upon payment of a fine of US\$ 3,000.00 per vessel.
 2. Extensions for the installation of the GMDSS equipment required by 1 February 1999 will be granted after 1 February 1999 upon payment of a fine of US\$ 6,000.00 per vessel.

Both of the above fines are to be paid in advance to the "Directorate of Consular and Maritime Affairs" by International money order or check (that can be drawn in a U.S. bank) and sent to the address at the end of this circular. Upon receipt of payment, the Department of Maritime Safety (SEGUMAR) will issue the extension letter to the company that requested it, and send it by fax and regular mail, unless requested otherwise. Please make sure the request contains the following information:

- a. Name of the vessel
- b. Call letters
- c. IMO number
- d. Year keel laid
- e. Date that equipment will be delivered (shipowners/operators shall send a clear copy of the order receipt)
- f. Date that equipment will be installed (the extension letter will be granted based on this date)
- g. Postal Address to where the extension letter shall be sent to

The above fines do not apply when the vessel has been detained in a port.

- A. In other cases, fines shall be imposed as follows:

1. For vessels are identified as "not in compliance" with the GMDSS equipment requirements after 1 February 1999, a fine of US\$ 8,000.00 shall be imposed. SEGUMAR will inform of any such cases to the Legal Department of the Directorate.
2. For vessels that requested an exemption for GMDSS equipment requirements under the understanding that the vessel would be put out of service within two (2) years of 1 February 1999, and if the owners/operators do not comply with the condition to put the vessels out of service, a fine of US\$ 10,000.00 shall be imposed.

- A. For registration purposes:

1. Vessels seeking permanent registration and vessels requesting any change in their Patente of Navigation after 1 February 1999, shall have all the GMDSS equipment installed on board before the Administration issues a permanent Patente of navigation. The Radio-communications Department of the Directorate will require that all vessels of 300 gross tonnage and upwards present a GMDSS certification prior to the issuance of a Radio License.

October 2023 - CANCELLED

January 1999

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

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