

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-157

- To:** Owners/Operators, Recognized Organizations, Masters and legal Representative
- Subject:** International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001
- Reference:**
- a. Law No. 30 of July 11, 2007, adoption of International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001.
 - b. Resolution MEPC.331(76) of 17 June 2021 adopted through Resolution No. 107-OMI-260-DGMM of 14 July 2022.
 - c. Resolution MEPC.195(61) adopted on 1 October 2010 “the 2010 Guidelines for Survey and Certification of Anti-fouling Systems on Ships” **(as a recommendation)**
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to officially communicate that the Republic of Panama has deposited at IMO, the ratification of the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling System on Ships (AFS Convention) in September 2007. Therefore, the Convention entered into force 17 September 2008.

2. Background

- 2.1. Article 10 of the AFS 2001 Convention, prescribes that vessels shall be surveyed and certified in accordance with the regulations of annex 4 of the Convention.
- 2.2. The IMO adopted through Resolution MEPC.331(76) of 17 June 2021 the amendments to AFS Convention, Annexes 1 and 4 regarding controls on cybutryne and the form of the International Anti-fouling System Certificate. The said amendments enter into force on 1 January 2023.



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3. Instruction to interested parties.

- 3.1. Shipowners and/or Companies of ships that are confirmed to be affected by the amendments to Annex 1 to the AFS Convention adopted through the 2021 amendments are instructed to make a timely request for a survey for the issuance of an International Anti-fouling System Certificate, in the amended model form adopted through said amendments, using the procedure outlined in paragraphs 4 “Request for survey” and 5.3 “Surveys of existing ships requesting only an International Anti-fouling System Certificate” of the annex to resolution MEPC.195(61), as may be amended by the Organization, so that ships have a valid International Anti-fouling System Certificate on board not later than 24 months after the entry into force of the amendments to Annex 1 to the AFS Convention (**1 January 2025**).
- 3.2. Class Societies / RO's are instructed to issue new International Anti-fouling System Certificates, according to the model form adopted through the resolution MEPC.331(76), at the next anti-fouling system application, in the case of ships that are confirmed not to be affected by the amendments to Annex 1 to the AFS Convention adopted through the said resolution.

October, 2023 – completely revised.

March, 2008

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

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