

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-181

- To:** Parties, Administrations, Port State Supervisory Authorities, Ship-owners / Operators, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Company Security Officers, Seafarers, Legal Representatives, Authorized Maritime Training Centers, Authorized Physicians, Private Consulates of Merchant Marine, Inspectorates, Authorized Offices, Brokers, and users of the Panama Ship Registry.
- Subject:** Responsibilities of companies under Regulation I/14 of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended.
- Reference:** Law No. 4 of May 15, 1992 adopted 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, MLC, 2006, as amended, Law No. 2 of January 6, 2009 and Resolution J.D. No. 076-2020 of October 8, 2020 and its modifications.
Circular No. DGGM-042 (**Only Recommendation**).
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Circular is to communicate to the users of the Panamanian Registry, the provisions of the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) with respect to the responsibilities of companies under Regulation I/14 and Section A-I/14 of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended and its STCW Code.

2. Scope

- 2.1. These provisions apply to companies, as defined in Regulation I/1 of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended:
- 2.1.1. Company: the owner of the ship or any other organization or person such as the manager, or the bareboat charterer, who has assumed the responsibility for operation of the ship from the ship-owner and who, on

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assuming such responsibility, has agreed to take over all the duties and responsibilities imposed on the company by the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended.

3. In compliance with the Regulation I/14 of the 1978 STCW, as amended, the companies will be responsible for the assignment of seafarers for service on board in accordance with the provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, and the PMA shall require every such company to ensure that:
 - 3.1. Each seafarer assigned to any of its ships holds an appropriate certificate in accordance with the provisions of the 1978 Convention, as amended and as established by the PMA.
 - 3.2. Its ships are manned in compliance with the applicable safe manning requirements of the PMA.
 - 3.3. Seafarers assigned to any of its ships have received refresher and updating training as required by the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended.
 - 3.4. Documentation and data relevant to all seafarers employed on its ships are maintained and readily accessible, and include, without being limited to, documentation and data on their experience, training, medical fitness and competency in assigned duties.
 - 3.5. Seafarers, on being assigned to any of its ships, are familiarized with their specific duties and with all ship arrangements, installations, equipment, procedures and ship characteristics that are relevant to their routine or emergency duties.
 - 3.6. The ship's complement can effectively coordinate their activities in an emergency situation and in performing functions vital to safety, security and to the prevention or mitigation of pollution.
 - 3.7. At all times on board its ships there shall be effective oral communication in accordance with Chapter V, Regulation 14, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, (SOLAS), as amended.
 - 3.8. That the International Safety Management Code (ISM Code) has been implemented in the topics relevant to the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended and that crew members correctly understand the management system to the extent that it relates to their tasks and that they are properly trained in its implementation.
 - 3.9. That all crew members have access to PMA maritime legislation.



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4. In accordance with Section A-I/14 of STCW Code, the companies provide written instructions to the master of each ship to which the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended applies, setting forth the policies and the procedures to be followed to ensure that all seafarers who are newly employed on board the ship are given a reasonable opportunity to become familiar with the shipboard equipment, operating procedures and other arrangements needed for the proper performance of their duties, before being assigned to those duties.
5. Companies are responsible for verifying the authenticity and validity of the technical documentation issued by the PMA to seafarers, before they are employed to provide service on board Panamanian flag vessels, for which purpose the following link is available on the web page and e-mail:
 - 5.1. Link: <http://190.34.205.206:8080/ords/f?p=100>
 - 5.2. E-mail: verification@amp.gob.pa
6. Companies are responsible for verifying whether seafarers, before they are employed to serve on board Panamanian flag vessels, are in the PMA's Unlawful Practices Database associated with the certificates and technical documentation of seafarers, for which purpose the following link is available on the web page:
 - 6.1. Link: http://201.225.255.174/CONS_OFICIALES/ArgumentosNave.Aspix
7. Companies are responsible for verifying whether seafarers, before they are employed to serve on board Panamanian flag vessels, are on the United Nations (UN) Security Council Consolidated List of Sanctioned Persons and Entities, which is available on the UN website:
 - 7.1. Link: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list>
8. The Panama Maritime Authority (PMA), through the Flag State Inspectors and Port State Control Inspectors, will retain all seafarers' technical documentation issued by the PMA that is determined to be fraudulent.



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October, 2023 – *New Subject, the paragraphs # 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are modified, and the paragraphs # 6, 7, and 8 are added.*
August, 2008.

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

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