

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-209

- To:** Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (RO's).
- Subject:** Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Management Plan
- Reference:**
- a. Resolution MEPC.176 (58), adopted through Resolution 106-OMI-80-DGMM of 29 June 2010;
 - b. Resolution MEPC.185 (59) adopted on 17 July 2009 – Guidelines for the Development of a VOC Management Plan. (**only as recommendation**)
 - c. MEPC.1/Circ.795/Rev.7 of 16 December 2022 - Unified interpretations to MARPOL Annex VI. (**only as recommendation**)

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this circular is to inform about the resolution MEPC 176 (58), which will be coming into force on 1st July 2010, which amends MARPOL Annex VI regulation 15.6.

2. Background

- 2.1. According to MARPOL Annex VI regulation 15 “If the emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from a tanker are to be regulated in a port or ports or a terminal or terminals under the jurisdiction of a Party, they shall be regulated in accordance with the provisions of this regulation.”

3. Scope/Applicability

- 3.1. It states that all tankers carrying crude oil (for which MARPOL Annex VI is applicable) shall minimize Volatile Organic Compounds emission by implementing and having onboard a Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) management plan



Merchant Marine Circular

approved by the Administration. Refer to MEPC.1/Circ.795/Rev.7 of 16 December 2022 - Unified interpretations to MARPOL Annex VI.

4. Instructions to Recognized Organizations

- 4.1. This Administration authorizes all Recognized Organizations (RO's) duly approved for issuing the certificates related to Annex VI of MARPOL Convention, on behalf of the Republic of Panama, to carry out the revision of the VOC Management Plans as well as its corresponding approvals.
- 4.2. Consequently, all Recognized Organizations (RO's), at the moment to carry out the verification of the VOC Management Plan, shall make sure that the Resolution MEPC.185 (59), "Guidelines for the Development of the VOC Management Plan", has been used as guidance for the development of such plan. Refer also to the technical information on systems and operation to assist development of VOC management plans (MEPC.1/Circ.680), and the Technical information on a vapour pressure control system in order to facilitate the development and the update of VOC management plans (MEPC.1/Circ.719).

October, 2023 – Fully revised.
July, 2010

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

SEGUMAR
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5353 / 50 / 48
E-mail: segumar.headoffice@segumar.com
Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/>