

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-222

To: Owners, ship-owners, operators, agents and captains of vessels registered in the national merchant navy, recognized organizations of the Republic of Panama and foreign flag vessels that navigate in Panamanian jurisdictional waters and Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates.

Subject: Use of the Merchant Marine Circulars and Merchant Marine Notices.

Reference: Resolution No. 106-62-DGMM of March 31, 2020.

1. This Merchant Marine Circular supersedes the **MMC-1**.

2. Purpose:

The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to communicate the content of [Resolution No. 106-62-DGMM of March 31, 2020](#) on the use of Merchant Marine Circulars and Merchant Marine Notices.

3. Scope:

This Merchant Marine Circular goes to ship-owners, operators, managers, crew agencies, agents, and captains or crew members of any vessel registered in the Panama Merchant Fleet, as well as to those recognized organizations approved by the Republic of Panama and to any foreign vessels that navigate in Panamanian jurisdictional waters.

4. Background:

Due to the high volume of information that we are processing daily, is evident that the scope of the content of the Merchant Marine Circulars (MMC) and Merchant Marine Notices (MMN) should be clarified.

4.1. Merchant Marine Circulars (MMC):

Merchant Marine Circulars is a document to communicate criteria, instructions, or orders given by the Panama Ship's Registry. This may include legal, technical and operational requirements under the Panama Flag Registry, legal interpretation, and the provisions of international standards, with mandatory compliance.



Merchant Marine Circular

As a national policy, the government of Panama by using the MMC may publish guidelines, interpretations or instructions issued by the Panama Maritime Administration Board of Directors, the Administration or by the General Directorate of Seafarers and/or by the General Directorate of Merchant Marine.

4.2. Merchant Marine Notices (MMN):

Merchant Marine Notices is a document used to communicate international news, general alerts, and warnings to marines, note that this MMN has no binding purpose.

***October, 2023 – Change in the subject and general review.
April, 2011.***

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

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

Phone: (507) 501-5081 / 5010

E-mail: cumplimientodgmm@amp.gob.pa

Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/>



GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MERCHANT MARINE RESOLUTIONS AND INQUIRIES

Resolution No. 106-62-DGMM

Panama, March 31, 2020

THE UNDERSIGNED GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MERCHANT MARINE IN USE OF ITS POWERS CONFERRED BY LAW

CONSIDERING:

That by Decree Law No. 7 of February 10, 1998, the Panama Maritime Authority is created, unifying the different maritime competences of the Public Administration and serving as the Supreme Authority of the Republic of Panama, to exercise rights and comply to the responsibilities of the Panamanian State within the framework of the International Agreements, and other laws and regulations in force.

That Article 187 of Law No. 57 of August 6, 2008, General Law of Merchant Marine, which modifies Article 30 of Decree Law No. 7 of February 10, 1998, establishes as a function of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority, in its item 25, "Execute the functions of the Flag State and enforce on Panama registered vessels and foreigners in jurisdictional waters the national legal regulations and those that are part of international conventions in force ratified by the Republic of Panama, referring to maritime safety, navigational safety, maritime protection and the prevention and pollution control at sea, as well as international guidelines and codes related to the Flag State "; and in item 26, "Execute and enforce national legal regulations, current international conventions ratified by the Republic of Panama, the international guidelines and codes referring to the Port State Control;."

That Article 2, item 5 of Law No. 2 of January 17, 1980, establishes that it corresponds to the General Directorate of Consular and Vessels, currently the General Directorate of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority, "To ensure the strict compliance with the legal regulations of seaworthiness, safety, hygiene and the marine environment contamination prevention by Panamanian vessels wherever they are and those of any other nationality found in Panama territorial waters, as well as by the organized navigation development in these waters, and to sanction violations and the non-compliance of such regulations."

That in response to these rights, the General Directorate of Merchant Marine has published and disclosed over the years different Merchant Marine Circulars, in order to communicate compliance measures and mandatory observance in accordance with current legal regulations and International Agreements adopted by the Republic of Panama, international codes or guidelines on the protection and maritime safety of ships, prevention and pollution control, and also the protection of the marine environment, for their strict and faithful compliance by Merchant Marine Registered Vessels, Organizations by the Republic of Panama, and foreign flag vessels that navigate in Panamanian jurisdictional waters.

In addition, the General Directorate of Merchant Marine has published and disclosed in recent years different Merchant Marine Notices, for informational purposes only, with the intention that they serve as recommended criteria, without being binding or mandatory, in relation to be useful information within the national and international maritime industry.

That given the need to define the use and function of Merchant Marine Circulars, and Merchant Marine Notices, establishing the difference in relation to the legal effectiveness of both outlines, for purposes of Quality Management System and legal control that must prevail in the communications issued by the General Directorate of Merchant Marine, joined with the need to confer legal support, that is why,

RESOLVES:

FIRST: **TO APPROVE** the use of Merchant Marine Circulars to communicate the criteria, instructions, or orders given by the General Directorate of Merchant Marine, including legal requirements, technical and operational requirements under the Panama Flag Registry, legal interpretation and the provisions of international standards, with mandatory compliance. By the same token, the General Directorate of Merchant Marine may publish by means of Merchant Marine Circulars, guidelines issued by the Board of Directors Resolutions or the Administrator of the Panama Maritime Authority, or any interpretation or instruction given by any other General Directorate.

Paragraph: These Merchant Marine Circulars will be mandatory for all ship-owners, operators, agents and ships captains registered in the National Merchant Marine, Recognized Organizations by the Republic of Panama, and foreign flag vessels navigating in Panamanian jurisdictional waters.

In those cases, when through Merchant Marine Circulars, Resolutions or documents issued by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) are adopted, and they make references to guidelines that complement such resolution or document, these guidelines may be included in the respective Merchant Marine Circular, emphasizing that they will only have a recommendation, but not mandatory nature; This with the purpose of expanding, uplifting or complementing the text of the Resolution or document that we have duly adopted.

The Merchant Marine Circulars will be published on the website of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine: www.panamashipregistry.com., or by any other electronic means, approved by the Panama Maritime Authority.

SECOND: **TO APPROVE** the use of Merchant Marine Notices, is for communication of news, alerts, information, and warnings, for simply recommended and non-binding purposes.

Merchant Marine Notices will be published on the General Directorate of Merchant Marine website: www.panamashipregistry.com., or by any other electronic means, approved by the Panama Maritime Authority.

THIRD: **TO ESTABLISH** that Merchant Marine Circulars and Merchant Marine Notices will have a consecutive number and may be amended or revoked by the General Directorate of Merchant Marine, according to the specific needs at the time

FOURTH: **TO ACKNOWLEDGE** the legal validity of all Merchant Marine Circulars, published prior to the effective date of this Resolution.

FIFTH: **TO ACKNOWLEDGE** the legal validity of all Merchant Marine Notices, published prior to the effective date of this Resolution.

SIXTH: **TO NOTIFY** all Ship-owners, Operators, Agents and Ships Captains registered in the National Merchant Marine, as well as the Recognized Organizations and the legal representatives of the vessels, whom must know and observe the guidelines included in the Merchant Marine Circulars and Merchant Marine Notices. Also, they must continuously verify the website www.panamashipregistry.com, or any other website approved by the Panama Maritime Authority, to stay updated of any changes in the publication of new Circulars and new Notices.

SEVENTH: **TO COMMUNICATE** the contents of this Resolution to all Departments of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine, to the International Offices of the Panama Maritime Authority, to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Panama at the International Maritime Organization, to all Consulates and users of the Panama Registry.

EIGHTH: **TO INFORM** that this Resolution revokes Resolution No. 106-37-DGMM of September 1, 2008 in all of its sections, and any other previous resolution that is contrary to it.

NINTH: **TO INFORM** that this resolution comes into effect at the time of its publication.

LEGAL BASIS: Law No. 2 of January 17, 1980.
Decree Law 7 of February 10, 1998.
Law No. 57 of August 6, 2008.

NOTIFY, PUBLISH AND EXECUTE,

RAFAEL N. CIGARRUISTA G.
General Director