

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC- 251

To: Shipowners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (ROs).

Subject: Mobile Offshore Drilling Units and Mobile Offshore Units- high speed craft

Reference: Law N° 2 of January 6, 2009 - Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended.

1. The purpose of this Circular is to inform users of the Panamanian Registry that this Administration has decided that the certification required by Regulation 5.1.3 and Standard A5.1.3 regarding to Maritime Labour Certificate and Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended will be voluntary to Platforms or MODU (Mobile Offshore Drilling Units and MOUS), since their main service involves operations of drilling, exploration or exploitation of resources beneath the seabed.
2. Shipowners or operators may request voluntarily their units certification through a Recognized Organization authorized for the issuance of the Maritime Labour Certificate, however, the requirements of the MLC applies to seafarers or personnel covered by STCW with respect the living and working conditions on board, including the two financial securities required by the MLC (Reference MMC 336), which will be verified by Port State Control Authorities and Flag inspectors even though the Maritime Labor Certificate is not placed on board.
3. Personnel under the following conditions shall be excluded and not considered as seafarers, according to what is established on Resolution VII regarding information on occupational groups.
 - the duration of the stay on board,
 - the frequency of periods of work spent on board,
 - the location of the person's place of work, and
 - the purpose of the person's work on board.



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4. The Platforms or MODU are subject to safety annual inspections (ASI), which shall be performed by the Flag surveyors.
5. The vessels classified as "High Speed Craft" will be exempted from the application of the MLC, taking into account Resolution MSC. 36 (63) adopted by the International Code of Safety for high-speed craft (HSC Code) and its complement IMO Resolutions and Chapter X on Safety measures for high-speed craft, due to the service they provide, ship characteristics are different from vessels subject to International Codes, operational limits, do not maintain accommodations and recreational facilities on board, and the personnel are not covered by the STCW amended.

October, 2023- Updated the circular format

March 02, 2020- Included the new Paragraph 5

February, 2017- Modification of Points 1 and 2.

March, 2013 – Changes in Paragraph 1.

August, 2012

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

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