

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-216

To: Ship-owner/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organization (RO's).

Subject: Code of Safety for Caribbean Cargo Ships (CCSS Code).

Reference: Resolution No. 106-60-DGMM of June 29, 2017.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform that the Republic of Panama, through Resolution No. 106-60-DGMM of June 29, 2017 adopted the Code of Safety for Caribbean Cargo Ships (CCSS Code) as amended and its revision of June 3, 2015.
- 1.2. The Code of Safety for Caribbean Cargo Ships (CCSS Code) was adopted by the Final Preparatory and Signatory Meeting on Port State Control for the Caribbean Region on February 5 – 9, 1996.
- 1.3. The CCSS Code has been developed to provide a regional safety standard for vessels under 500 Gross Registered Tons, which travel in the Caribbean Trading Area.

2. Scope

- 2.1. The provisions of this Code should facilitate the operation of vessels under 500 Gross Register Tons to which certain International Conventions are not applicable and therefore should ensure a level of security for the ship and the crew. The CCSS Code applies to cargo ships under 500 Gross Tonnage operating in waters of countries that:



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2.1.1. Have adopted the Code of Safety for Caribbean Cargo Ships,

2.1.2. Is Party of the Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding (CMOU).

3. Requirement.

- 3.1. All Panamanian flag vessels under 500 Gross Tonnage described on the previous paragraph (6) holding or not the Document of Compliance of CCSS Code shall hold on board the Caribbean Cargo Ship Safety Certificate issued by a Recognized Organization duly authorized by the Republic of Panama, and shall have to comply with the amendments to the Code of Safety for the Caribbean Cargo Ships, by January 1, 2018.
- 3.2. All Classification Societies and Recognized Organizations, who are authorized to issue the Caribbean Cargo Ship Safety Certificate (CCSSC), shall incorporate the amendments to their forms and procedures. Recognized Organization not authorized to perform such functions shall apply to the General Directorate of Merchant Marine for the formal authorization.
- 3.3. While a vessel is holding the Caribbean Cargo Ship Safety Certificate, it is not required to comply with the Certificates required through the Resolution No. 106-138-DGMM of September 10, 2013.

November, 2023 – Inclusion of scope paragraph 2 and order in the number of paragraphs.

November, 2017 – Reference, content and paragraphs 2, 4 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

December, 2010.

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

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