

# Merchant Marine Circular

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

## MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-217

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

**Subject:** Ship to Ship Transfer (STS) Operations Plan.

**Reference:** Law No. 17 of November 9, 1981 and protocol Law No. 1 of October 25, 1983 – MARPOL 73/78.  
Resolution No. 106-OMI-87-DGMM of November 22, 2010 adopted  
Resolution MEPC.186(59) of July 17, 2009, in force on January 1, 2011.

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this circular is to inform about the Resolution MEPC.186(59), which will be coming into force on 1st January 2011, and amends MARPOL 73/78 Annex I, adding a new chapter 8. The regulation 41 of this new chapter states that all oil tankers involved in STS operations shall carry on board a Plan prescribing how to conduct STS operations (STS operations Plan) not later than the date of the first annual, intermediate or renewal survey of the ship to be carried out on or after 1 January 2011. Each oil tanker's STS operations Plan shall be approved by the Administration.

### 2. Scope

- 2.1.1. This Administration authorizes all Recognized Organizations (RO's) duly approved to issue the certificate related to Annex I of MARPOL Convention, on behalf of the Republic of Panama, to carry out the revision of the STS operations Plan as well as its corresponding approvals

### 3. Requirement.

- 3.1. Consequently, all Recognized Organizations (RO's), at the moment to carry out the verification of the STS operations Plan, shall make sure that such Plan is developed taking into account the information contained in the best practice guidelines for STS operations identified by the Organizations (IMO's "Manual on Oil Pollution, Section I, Prevention" as amended, and the ICS and OCIMF "Ship-to-ship Transfer Guide, Petroleum", fourth edition, 2005).



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**November, 2023** – *The reference was revised and the scope of paragraph 2. July, 2002.*

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