

# Merchant Marine Circular

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

## MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-328

- To:** Parties, Administrations, Port State Supervisory Authorities, Ship-owners / Operators, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Company Security Officers, Seafarers, Legal Representatives, Authorized Maritime Training Centers, Authorized Physicians, Private Consulates of Merchant Marine, Inspectorates, Authorized Offices, Brokers, and users of the Panama Ship Registry.
- Subject:** Provisions for the training and certification of offshore personnel on board offshore units registered under the Panamanian flag.
- Reference:** 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, MLC 2006, as amended, Resolution ADM No. 276-2014 of October 3, 2014 and Resolution J.D. No. 052-2021 of August 02, 2021.  
Circular No. DGGM-020 (**Only Recommendation**).

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Circular is to communicate to the users of the Panamanian Registry, the provisions for the training and certification of offshore personnel on board offshore units registered under the Panamanian flag, in compliance with the recommendations of the Resolution A.1079(28) of December 4, 2013, adopted through the Resolution ADM No. 276-2014 of October 3, 2014 by the PMA.

### 2. Scope

- 2.1. This Merchant Marine Circular applies to offshore personnel serving on offshore support vessels and to the types of offshore units registered under the Panamanian flag, detailed below:
- 2.1.1. Column-Stabilized unit (Semi-submersible and Submersible).
  - 2.1.2. Self-elevating Unit.
  - 2.1.3. Surface Unit (Ship- or Barge-type Hull Unit).
  - 2.1.4. Platform, either self-propelled or non-self-propelled.



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3. The following positions will apply to offshore personnel on board offshore units under the Panamanian flag:
  - 3.1. Offshore Installation Manager.
  - 3.2. Barge Supervisor.
  - 3.3. Ballast Control Operator.
  - 3.4. Maintenance Supervisor.
  - 3.5. Rating forming part of a Navigational Watch MOU.
  - 3.6. Rating forming part of an Engineering Watch MOU
  - 3.7. Ordinary Seaman MOU.
  - 3.8. Marine Technician MOU.
  - 3.9. Certified person MOU.
  - 3.10. Ship Security Officer.
  - 3.11. Radio Operator MOU.
4. Every master, officer and radio operator who work on board of any offshore vessel registered under the Panamanian flag, must hold some of the documents issued by the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA), in order to perform the functions of the position, as detailed below:
  - 4.1. Certificate of Competency,
  - 4.2. Endorsement of Certificate of Competency,
  - 4.3. Seaman's Book,
  - 4.4. Dispensation; or
  - 4.5. Dispensation Authorization.
5. For the following positions, the document to be issued by the Panama Maritime Authority shall be a Seaman's Book:
  - 5.1. Offshore Installation Manager.
  - 5.2. Barge Supervisor.
  - 5.3. Ballast Control Operator.
  - 5.4. Maintenance Supervisor.
  - 5.5. All Visitors and Offshore Special Personnel assigned or not regularly on board of any mobile offshore unit registered under the Panamanian flag.
6. All offshore personnel who have duties of safety, security or responsibilities into the muster list and who work on board of any mobile offshore unit registered under the Panamanian flag must possess an applicable technical documentation issued by the Panama Maritime Authority, according to the International Conventions ratified by the Republic of Panama and the national legislation in force, authorizing the holder to perform the functions of the position.

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7. The following certificates whose expiration date is undefined or do not show an expiration date will not require an update from the applicant. Based on the aforementioned, for the revalidation of the respective Seaman's Book, it shall suffice to submit the corresponding certificates and a date of expiration shall not be taken into account:
  - 7.1. Offshore Installation Manager.
  - 7.2. Ballast Control Operator.
  - 7.3. Barge Supervisor; and
  - 7.4. Maintenance Supervisor.
8. The companies employing offshore personnel assigned to offshore units have the responsibility of ensuring full and absolute compliance of all regulations established in this Regulation.
9. The companies shall establish and enforce resting periods for all offshore personnel, particularly for the personnel in charge of the watchkeeping and those who have tasks related to safety, security or pollution prevention.
10. The offshore personnel considered as Maritime Crew that is within the provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, shall comply with the provisions related to the medical certificate established in Section A-I/9 of the STCW Code, the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC 2006, as amended) and the provisions of the national regulations of the General Directorate of Seafarers of the PMA.
11. Considering the new services to whom the offshore units may be dedicated, the General Directorate of Seafarers of the PMA may determine new positions and requirements to satisfy the needs of the offshore personnel.
12. The Seaman's Books issued before the date of validity of this Regulation shall keep its validity only until their expiration date.
13. The provisions for the training and certification of offshore personnel on board offshore units registered under the Panamanian flag are available at the following links:
  - 13.1. [Resolution J.D. No. 052-2021 of August 2, 2021.](#)
  - 13.2. [Resolution ADM No. 276-2014 of October 3, 2014.](#)



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**November, 2023** – *The paragraphs # 1 is modified, and the paragraphs # 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 are added.*

**March, 2016.**

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

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