

# Merchant Marine Circular

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

## MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-370

- To:** Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates, Recognized Organizations (RO), Regional Offices, Manning Agencies, Nautical Inspectors, Shipping Companies, Recognized Trainings Organizations
- Subject:** Yacht Technical Policy
- Reference:** a) Red Ensign Group Yacht Code parts A & B and related Annexes - January 2019 Edition, adopted through Resolution No. 106-82-DGMM dated 12 September 2018, adopted.  
b) Law Decree No.18 – May 30, 1984.

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### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform all our clients that our Administration adopted the Red Ensign Group Yacht Code (January Edition 2019) through Resolution No. 106- 82-DGMM dated 12 September 2018, that has been developed by United Kingdom, the Crown Dependencies and the UK Overseas Territories which operate shipping registers from their jurisdiction.
- 1.2** This Code is considered as equivalence under the provisions of Article 8 of the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, Regulation I-5 of the International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), and Article 9 of the International Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978 as amended.

### 2. SCOPE

- 2.1** The Red Ensign Group (REG) has been working alongside the Large Yacht industry to develop this 'REG Yacht Code'. The development of the Code is based on the consideration that full compliance with the provisions of the above mentioned Conventions is unreasonable and in some instances disproportionately onerous compared to the incremental increase in safety levels achieved for yachts.

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Yachts have a very different operating pattern when compared to a typical commercial ship which usually operates 24/7 on a tight schedule.

The Code is intended to cater exclusively to the yachting sector of the market and it is not intended to apply to commercial cruise, excursion or ferry passenger (including passenger/cargo vessels) sectors of the industry. Yachts which comply with the Code do not have to comply with the requirements of the High Speed Craft Code (HSC Code). The Red Ensign Group Yacht Code consists in two parts, part A and part B.

**2.2** Annexes have been produced which are applicable to both Parts A and B (as it is referred by each part). The Scope of Parts A and B of the new Code are as follows:

- **Part A**, applicable to yachts which are 24 meters and over in load line length, are in commercial use for sport or pleasure, do not carry cargo and do not carry more than 12 passengers. As specified in Part A, The Code applies to motor or sailing vessels of 24 meters in load line length and over or, if built before 21 July 1968, is of 150GRT or over and which, at the time, is in commercial use for sport or pleasure and carries no cargo and no more than 12 passengers. Sail training vessels are included in this application.
- **Part B**, applicable to pleasure yachts of any size, in private use or engaged in trade, which carry more than 12 but not more than 36 passengers and which do not carry cargo. As specified in Part B, This Code applies only to pleasure yachts engaged on international voyages whilst carrying more than 12 but not more than 36 passengers with a maximum number of persons not more than 200 and which do not carry cargo.

**2.3** All yachts registered under our Administration and those that are going to be registered must have implemented the REG CODE parts A,B or the Regulations set out in Law Decree 18 of May 30, 1984 (as applicable).As per Resolution No. 106-82-DGMM, the Regulations set out in Law Decree 18 of May 30, 1984, will still be applicable to all yachts from 6 to 24 meters in length that carry less than 12 passengers and are not engaged in commercial activities.

**2.4** If the Yacht is dedicated to commercial trading or compromise in commercial business within Panamanian jurisdictional waters the Navigation and Maritime Safety Department of General Directorate of Merchant Marine must apply the REG Code adopted through Resolution106-82- DGMM as far as possible.

### **3. Survey and Certification:**

**3.1** All certificates to be issued for yachts are listed in the Annex M of the REG code.



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**3.2** All ship covered by this Code are required to be surveyed and certified in accordance with the applicable requirements of the survey guidelines under the IMO Harmonized System of Survey and Certification adopted by resolution A.1053(27) and its future amendments.

**3.3** Attached herewith you will find The REG Code and its Annexes:

- PART A – Large Yacht Code (up to 12 passengers)
- PART B – Passenger Yacht Code (up to 36 passengers)
- Common Annexes

#### **4. Delegation of Authority**

**4.1** Recognized Organizations may apply expeditiously in order to be authorized to carry out the correspondent Surveys required under the Regulations of the REG Yacht Code. These applications will be evaluated according to this Administration's criteria for this Code.

**November, 2023** – References were updated, format circular updated.  
**December, 2018.**

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

SEGUMAR Panama  
General Directorate of Merchant Marine  
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5348 / 5350  
E-mail: [segumar.headoffice@segumar.com](mailto:segumar.headoffice@segumar.com)  
Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/>