

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-344

- To:** Parties, Administrations, Port State Control, Recognized Organizations (RO's), Ship-owners/Operators, Seafarers, Legal Representatives, Authorized Maritime Training Centers, Authorized Physicians, Private Consulates of Merchant Marine of the Republic of Panama, Inspectorates, Authorized Offices, Brokers, Departments/Units of the GDS, Regional Documentation Offices of the Panama Maritime Authority and users of the Panama Ship Registry.
- Subject:** Restrictions for the recognition of seafarers' technical documentation issued by other Maritime Administrations.
- Reference:** Resolution J.D. No. 076-2020 of October 8, 2020 and its modifications.
Circular No. DGGM-002 (**Only as recommendation**).
-

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Circular is to communicate to the users of Panamanian Registry, the restrictions of the Panama Maritime Authority with respect to the recognition of seafarers' technical documentation issued by other Maritime Administrations.

2. Scope

- 2.1. This Merchant Marine Circular applies to seafarers; ship-owners, operators and companies of Panamanian flag ships, States Parties, Administrations, broker or any office authorized to carry out requests of technical documentation for seafarers by the PMA, and to all interested parties.

3. The restrictions of the PMA with respect to the recognition of seafarers' technical documentation issued by the Maritime Administrations are indicated below:

Merchant Marine Circular

3.1. The Panama Maritime Authority does not recognize the Certificates of Competence (CoC), Certificates of Proficiency (CoP), Course Certificates and Seaman's Books issued to non-nationals by the Maritime Administrations of the following State Parties:

- 3.1.1. Belize.
- 3.1.2. Bolivia.
- 3.1.3. Cook Islands.
- 3.1.4. Dominica.
- 3.1.5. Honduras.
- 3.1.6. Indonesia.
- 3.1.7. Palau.
- 3.1.8. Samoa.
- 3.1.9. Sint Maarten.
- 3.1.10. Syrian Arab Republic.
- 3.1.11. The Federated States of Micronesia.
- 3.1.12. Vanuatu.

3.2. The Panama Maritime Authority does not recognize or process seafarers' technical documentation issued by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

The aforementioned is due to numerous and repeated reports from the General Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and resolutions issued by United Nations Security Council (UN). Therefore, because of the Republic of Panama has been a member of the United Nations since November 13, 1945, it is our obligation to fulfill the established precepts and provisions.

4. The Panama Maritime Authority requests all interested parties to take all necessary measures for due compliance with this Circular.

December, 2023 – Reference and the paragraphs # 1, 2, and 3 are modified, and paragraph # 4 is added.

May, 2021 – Change in the paragraph # 1.1., and the hyperlink of paragraph # 2 was updated.

March, 2021 – Change in subject, reference and change in the paragraphs # 1 and 2.

June, 2019 – Modification to Paragraph 1 & 2.

May, 2018 – Modification to Paragraphs 1 & 2.

December, 2017 – Modification to Paragraphs 1 & 2. Added Paragraph 3.

December, 2016.



Merchant Marine Circular

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

Certification Department
General Directorate of Seafarers
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5055 / 5199 / 5062 / 5325

E-mail: certification@amp.gob.pa / verification@amp.gob.pa

Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/>