



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
**MERCHANT MARINE NOTICE**

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**IN-HOUSE ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTORS**

No.: MN-03/2017

August, 2017

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to officially communicate that through the Resolution No. 106-39-DGMM, dated May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Panama Maritime Authority establishes requirements for the In-House Annual Safety Inspectors (In-House ASI inspectors) to meet, in order to become authorized by this Administration.

2. This Administration invites all shipowners, Operators and Ship Management companies with over ten (10) vessels registered under the flag and registry of Panama to voluntarily comply with the requirements listed on Resolution No. 106-39-DGMM of May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, to allow them be able to appoint an or various exclusive (s) In-House Annual Safety Inspector (s) (In-House ASI inspectors) to be able to survey all or certain their Panamanian ships owned, chartered or operated on board Panamanian flagged vessels.

3. The Applications for the In-House Annual Safety Inspectors (In-House ASI inspectors) must be submitted to the Directorate General of Merchant Marine, by letter addressed to: Mr. Fernando Solórzano, General Director of Merchant Marine.

4. The Panama Maritime Authority shall not issue authorizations of ASI Inspections to the In-House Annual Safety Inspectors (In-House ASI inspectors) that are not duly authorized by this Administration.

These measures have the sole purpose of having a better control over the ASI inspections and the duly authorized In-House surveyors.

5. Applicants to the In-House Annual Safety Inspectors (In-House ASI inspectors) position will be able to apply following the same procedures that Regular ASI inspections; however, additionally a supporting letter addressed to the AMP (etc.) from the shipowner/shipmanager/operator is required, giving the name, IMO number, tonnages and type of each if the vessel that will be under the appointed In-House ASI inspectors.

6. The application form must be sent together with the supporting letter and all the supporting evidence including the medical, application form and photo. The fee of USD\$ 150.00 is payable.

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| <i>Control N°: F-RIN-04-04</i> | <i>Version: 01</i>   | <i>Date: August 23, 2016</i>                        | <i>Page 1 of 1</i> |

7. This is the list of requirements that must be met to apply for this authorization:

- a. Supporting letter issued by the shipowner/shipmanager/operator, stating that the prospective inspector has all the necessary competences to be authorized by Panama as an In House ASI Inspector.
- b. Updated CV
- c. Colour Photo in PDF format passport size
- d. Payment (already mentioned)
- e. Colour Copy of the passport, showing your personal details.

8. The inspection procedure on board a ship will take, depending obviously on type of ship, age and tonnage, a minimum of 5 hours. The AMP will provide a special form that must be followed and in a checklist format, will guide the In-House inspector to complete the inspection. Due care to the documentation, and veracity of the statements, as well as the use of graphic material to proof that a rigorous and unbiased inspection has been done.

9. Once the In-house inspector is authorised, and the list of ships has been approved, every time a new inspection is due. The office needs to send an email requesting the inspection, specify is an In-house inspection, given time and port. The AMP will procedure to authorise the inspection and the reference given by the AMP must be inserted in the Form to be used.

10. Once the inspection has been done, all the results, together with the copy of the form and all the graphic material must be sent to the AMP, to the ASI section of the Navigation and Maritime Safety Department, following the already established procedures that will be communicated to the inspector, at the moment of the formal approval.

11. Upon receipt the AMP will verify the form, the photos/videos, and may ask for extra copies or photos. In the case that after the In-house inspection is done and within 90 days the vessel is subject to a PSC and it is detained of major non-conformities are found, the AMP has the right to send on board an inspector, and all the costs of travelling and inspection will be charged to the shipowner. The AMP is granting this special privilege in order to offer certain facilities to the shipowners/operators/ shipmanagers, but under any circumstances these inspections must be used for not complying with all safety conventions and all other requirements that vessels must comply within.

11. The In-house inspector programme is opened only to those ship-owner/operator / shipmanager that have an excellent performance record, that do not have any major non-conformities, and that In order to avoid any conflict of interests, the shipowners/operators/ shipmanagers will be the ultimate responsible of any wrongdoing or Malpractice that the in-house inspector will performed.

12. To all the shipowners/operators/ shipmanagers adopting the In-house programme are required to pay the annual inspection tax. Any other expenses, travelling, insurances, etc.

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will have to be on the account of the shipowners/operators/ shipmanagers. The In-house inspector will not receive any remuneration from the AMP for doing the inspection.

13. The In-house inspection accreditation is valid for two ( 2 ) years. The accreditation can be renewable after this period.

**March, 2024** – Cancelled - Resolution 106-012-DGMM of March 5, 2024, repeals the Resolution that established the In-house program for ASI inspections.

**August, 2017.**

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| <i>Control N°: F-RIN-04-04</i> | <i>Version: 01</i>   | <i>Date: August 23, 2016</i>                        | <i>Page 3 of 1</i> |