



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC 285

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To: Ship-owners/Operators, of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Class Societies and Recognized Organizations (RO's).

Subject: Principles of Minimum Safe Manning

Reference:

- a) **Resolution MSC. 325(90) of 24 May 2012 - Adoption of amendments to the international convention for the safety of life at sea, 1974, as amended, adopted by Resolution No. 106-OMI-118-DGMM**
 - b) **Resolution A. 1047(27) of 30 November 2011 – Principles of Minimum Safe Manning adopted through Res. 106-OMI-117-DGMM**
 - c) **Resolution 106-147-DGMM of October 15, 2013.**
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Purpose

1. This Merchant Marine Circular supersedes MMC. No. 21, 43, 65 and 73.

Application

2. Article 3 of Resolution MSC.325 (90) establish that in accordance with article VIII (b) (vii) (2) of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2014.
3. Considering the aforementioned, this Administration Adopted the Resolution A.1047 (27) which contains the Principles of Minimum Safe Manning, consisting of Guidelines for the application of principles of safe manning; Guidelines for determination of minimum safe Guidance on contents and model form of minimum safe manning document and Framework for determining minimum safe manning.
4. Having considered the Content of the Resolution A.1047 (27), this Administration has changed the form of the Minimum Safe Manning Certificate in order to be in accordance with the model set out by the Resolution.
5. Minimum Safe Manning Certificate New forms will start being issued from 1 October 2013 for vessels newly applying or requesting a new Minimum Safe Manning Certificate as well for existing ships holding a Minimum Safe Manning Certificate. It is important to indicate that Minimum Safe Manning Certificate already issued to Panamanian flag vessel will be re-issued at no cost for registered ships holding a previous Minimum Safe Manning Certificate, just please make sure to sent your request for New Form of the Certificate together with copy of the SMC of the vessel or in case of vessels less than 500 GRT confirming the Name of the Company

<i>Prepared by: Translator</i>	<i>Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief</i>	<i>Approved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i>
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responsible for the operation of the ship. **In cases of reissuance, please attach to your e-mail a copy of the latter MSM.**

New Form

6. Taking into account the great volume of Minimum Safe Manning Certificates that are going to be re-issued, we strongly recommend, in order to avoid unnecessary delays while guaranteeing a proper distribution of the work load, that the users of our Registry use, for this purpose, the SEGUMAR office closer to their geographical area.
7. It is important to mention that the total main propulsion machinery power shall be stated in Kilowatts (KW) which is the measure unit used for certification of chief engineer officers and second engineer officers of ships powered by main propulsion machinery of between 750 KW and 3,000 KW propulsion power.
8. All new application forms to request the minimum safe manning certificates are available in our MMC. 191.
9. Last but none the least, this Administration understood that some ships due to their size are carrying personnel in addition to the minimum certified manning, and considering that many times the manning do not include this personnel, the Administration has decided to include the following notation on the Minimum Safe Manning Certificates as follows: “The certificate of competency (COC) provided shall also authorize the holder thereof to perform any lower ranking position, as long as it is of the same nature as the one for which the respective COC was issued” for example in case that One Able Seaman is not on board the Boatswain or Bosun could perform such duties.
10. We remind you that our administration is fully committed to grant you the best service in the most prompt and efficient possible way.

January, 2014 – A point number has been assigned to the last paragraph, as result it became point 10 and modification of point 9

December, 2013 – Modification of point 5 and addition of new point 10 and reference c)..

September, 2013 – Modification of point 5 and addition of new points 6 and 9

September, 2013

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to:

Directorate General of Merchant Marine

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