



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-248

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To: Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (ROs).

Subject: Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006).

**Reference: Law 2 of January 6, 2009.
Resolution 106-25-DGMM of 4 May, 2012**

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform users of the Registry that this Directorate General of Merchant Marine has issued Resolution 106-25-DGMM of 4 May, 2012 which provides all Recognized Organizations with instructions in regards to the formal application for the authorization of the issuance of certificates related to the MLC.
2. Considering Resolution XVII “Resolution concerning the practical implementation of the issue of certificates on entry into force”, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 94th (Maritime) Session, at Geneva on February 2006; which clearly requests governments to develop plans, which will ensure the phasing in of certification requirements starting with bulk carriers and passenger ships no later than 12 months after the date on which the convention enters into force, and requests that Flag and Port states give due consideration to allowing ships to continue to operate without the certificate and declaration referred to.
3. Prior to the entry into force of the Convention, all Panamanian flagged vessels engaging in international voyages, whether bulk carriers or passenger ships that are 500 GT or larger, should carry on board the Document of Compliance with the Maritime Labour Convention, considering what is established on Resolution XVII, complementing the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.
4. Furthermore, we invite all the Recognized Organizations to apply for approval of the performance of inspections and issuance of the required certificates in accordance with MLC, 2006; and also encourage ship-owners to apply for the Document of Compliance on a Voluntary basis, in order to comply in advance with the requirements of the Convention.
5. The Recognized Organizations which are authorized to issue the Document of Compliance with the Maritime Labour Convention and the Maritime Labour Certificate shall be subject to the established on Resolution JD No. 019 of November 24, 2005 that regulate the Recognized Organizations.
6. The Document of Compliance with the Maritime Labour Convention shall be issued by a Recognized Organization (RO) duly authorized by the Directorate General of Merchant Marine.

<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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		Page 1 of 2

7. In the case of bulk carriers and passenger ships, the Document of Compliance with the Maritime Labour Convention shall be valid for up to one (1) year after the entry into force of the MLC, 2006, starting on the date of inspection completion carried out by an RO and shall include every aspect related to the working and living conditions of seafarers established on the MLC, 2006, including those measures adopted by the ship-owners in order to safeguard the seafarers health. Also, the Document of Compliance with the Maritime Labour Convention shall be replaced by the Maritime Labour Certificate, before the first anniversary date of the entry into force of the MLC, 2006.

8. Those ships that are neither bulk carriers nor passenger ships, may voluntarily request the Document of Compliance with the Maritime Labour Convention before the entry into force of the Convention, and shall comply with the Maritime Labour Certificate, starting on the date of entry into force of the MLC, 2006.

June, 2012

**Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to:
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		Page 2 of 2