

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-130

- To:** Parties, Administrations, Port State Supervisory Authorities, Ship-owners / Operators, Recognized Organizations, Seafarers, Legal Representatives, Authorized Maritime Training Centers, Authorized Physicians, Private Consulates of Merchant Marine, Inspectorates, Authorized Offices, Brokers, and users of the Panama Ship Registry.
- Subject:** Regulations of Maritime Labour Inspection and other provisions regarding life, work, accommodation, food, certification and manning conditions of seafarers on board ships of Panamanian flag.
- Reference:** 1978 STCW'78 Convention, as amended, MLC 2006, as amended, Law No. 4 of May 15, 1992, Law No. 2 of January 6, 2009, Executive Decree No. 86 of February 22, 2013 and its modifications, Resolution J.D. No. 076-2020 of October 8, 2020 and its modifications, Resolution J.D. No. 059-2021 of August 26, 2021, Resolution ADM No. 184-2021 of September 20, 2021 and Resolution ADM No. 075-2022 of March 29, 2022.
Circular No. DGGM-024 (**Only as recommendation**).

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1. The purpose of this Circular is to communicate to the users of the Panamanian Registry, the Regulations of maritime labour inspections and the rest of the provisions regarding the life, work, accommodation, food, certification and manning conditions of the seafarers working on board ships of Panamanian flag, in the Republic of Panama, making special emphasis that this inspection is not intended for the certification processes of the MLC 2006, as amended.
 2. This Regulation applies to all the ships registered under the Panamanian flag, destined for internal and international service in Panamanian jurisdictional waters, carrying out activities within Panamanian jurisdictional waters.

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3. During the maritime labour inspections, the conditions that the ship-owner must provide to the cadets in training on board ships of Panamanian flag and the minimum requirements that the training agreement between the ship-owner, the cadet and/or the maritime training center must include, will be checked.
4. The General Directorate of Seafarers will implement an effective and coordinated system of periodical inspections, deficiencies follow-up and other control measures of the labour conditions of the seafarers and cadets on board ships registered under the Panamanian flag, within the Republic of Panama.
5. Maritime labour inspectors are authorized to have access to the private and public ports and marinas in the national territory.
6. Masters, officers and operators of ships of Panamanian flag are obliged to allow the execution of maritime labour inspections and collaborate with its development and in case they refuse to allow the performance of the maritime labour inspections, they will be sanctioned by the General Directorate of Seafarers.
7. The regulation establishes the following types of inspections:
 - 7.1. **Official inspection:** It will be carried out at least every twelve (12) months, or within the period determined by the General Directorate of Seafarers.
 - 7.2. **Due to a labour complaint:** It will be carried out once the complaint has been received and all the information is available from the ship where it is presumed that violations of the applicable national and international regulations are being committed.
 - 7.3. **Re-inspection to correct deficiencies:** In case deficiencies are found during any type of maritime labour inspections, a re-inspection will be carried out within a maximum period of three (3) months, to verify their correction.
8. The ship-owner and master of the ship will have the obligation to correct all deficiencies reported by the maritime labour inspectors for a maximum period of up to three (3) months, depending on the type of deficiencies and what is stipulated in the Inspection Report. Once the deficiencies found during a maritime labour inspection have been corrected by the ship-owner and ship master of the ship, they must notify in writing the corrective measures adopted, through the e-mail: laborinspections@amp.gob.pa or to deliver them physically in the office of the Maritime Labour Affairs Department.



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9. The deficiencies found due to a maritime labour inspection or re-inspection may cause to order restrictions, condition the navigation or to hold up said ships until receiving satisfactory evidence that the deficiencies causing the measure have been corrected. The adopted measure will not admit any kind of appeal.
10. The deficiencies and infractions found during the maritime labour inspection in terms of technical documentation of the seafarers and the cadet, will be subjected to the procedures and sanctions established in the current and applicable national regulations ruling the subject.
11. The Resolutions that approve the provisions on the Maritime Labour Inspection Regulations and other provisions regarding life, work, accommodation, food, certification and manning conditions of the seafarers working on board ships of Panamanian flag, are available in the following links:
 - 11.1. [Resolution J.D. No. 059-2021 of August 26, 2021.](#)
 - 11.2. [Resolution ADM No. 184-2021 of September 20, 2021.](#)
 - 11.3. [Resolution ADM No. 075-2022 of March 29, 2022.](#)

May, 2023 – Paragraphs # 1 and 2 are modified.

April, 2023 – Change in the Subject; change in the Paragraphs # 1, 2, 3, 4, and New Paragraphs # 5, 6, 7, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3.

October, 2003.

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

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