

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-175

- To:** Administrations, Port State Control Authorities, Recognized Organizations (RO's), Ship-owners/Operators, Seafarers, Legal Representatives, Maritime Training Centers Authorized, Physicians Authorized, Privative Consulates of Merchant Marine of the Republic of Panama, Inspectorates offices, Auxiliary Registry Offices, Authorized Offices, Brokers, Departments/Units/Areas of the GDS, Regional Documentation Offices of the Panama Maritime Authority and users of the Panama Ship Registry.
- Subject:** Crew Dispensations due to Article VIII of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended.
- Reference:** STCW'78 Convention, as amended, was adopted by Law No. 4 of May 15, 1992; Resolution J.D. No. 076-2020 of October 8, 2020 and ADM Resolution No. 072-2021 of April 30, 2021.
Circular No. DGGM-014 (**Only as recommendation**).

1. The purpose of this Circular is to communicate to the users of the Panamanian Registry, that, based on Article VIII from the STCW'78 Convention, as amended, under exceptional circumstances, the Panama Maritime Authority may grant a Dispensation allowing a given seafarer to serve onboard ships for a determinate period, when deemed as harmless for people, goods and the environment.
2. The General Directorate of Seafarers will be in charge of the issuance of Dispensations based on Article VIII of the STCW'78 Convention, as amended, **since July 1, 2021**.
3. The Dispensations will be issued through the Head Office and the Regional Documentation Offices of the General Directorate of Seafarers, detailed as follows:

AMERICA		
Certification Department (Panama Head Office)	certification@amp.gob.pa	(+507) 501-5062

Merchant Marine Circular

RDO in Miami, United States of America	regionalmiami@amp.gob.pa	(+1) (212) 869-6440
RDO in Houston, United States of America	offshore@segumar.com	(+1) (713) 6224451 / 4459
EUROPE		
RDO in London, United Kingdom	amplondon@amp.gob.pa	(+44) (0) 2076293616
RDO in Piraeus, Greece	ampgreece@amp.gob.pa	(+30) 2104292120
ASIA		
RDO in Dubai, United Arab Emirates	segumar.dubai@segumar.com	(+971) 43526910
RDO in Shanghai, People's Republic of China	info.pmsanghai@amp.gob.pa	(+86) 21-60293386
RDO in Seoul, Republic of Korea (South Korea)	regionalofficeseoul@amp.gob.pa	(+82) 70-4694-4096 / 4097
RDO in Manila, Philippines	infoampmanila@amp.gob.pa	(+63) 2 8834-2393
RDO in Tokyo, Japan	crew-license@panaconsul-tokyo.con	(+81)-03-35-85-3661
RDO in Imabari, Japan	segumar@segumarimabari.jp	(+81) 898-36-1188
RDO in Singapore, Singapore	segumar.sg@segumar.com	(+65) 6221 8677 / Ext. 204
RDO in Mumbai, India	ord.mumbai@amp.gob.pa	(+91) 022 – 6828-3100



Merchant Marine Circular

4. The Panama Maritime Authority establishes the following situations for the issuance of Dispensations based on Article VIII of the STCW'78 Convention, as amended:
 - 4.1. Force Majeure Cases.
 - 4.2. Family Reasons.
 - 4.3. Medical Reasons.
 - 4.4. Special Circumstances.
5. The Panama Maritime Authority determines that for the positions of Master and Chief Engineer, the dispensations can only be granted for the cases of *force majeure* and for periods, as brief as possible.
6. The Dispensations granted based on Article VIII of the STCW'78 Convention, as amended to other positions different from those established on numeral 5, shall be granted for a determined period, not to exceed six (6) months.
7. No Dispensation will be granted based on Article VIII of the STCW'78 Convention, as amended, for the positions of Radiotelegraph Officer and Radiotelephone Operator, unless the relevant circumstances foreseen in the Radio Regulations take place.
8. The beneficiary of the Dispensation shall be competent for the position to be granted with the Dispensation, with the condition of its competence being enough to occupy the vacant position without risks, so the Panama Maritime Authority deems it satisfactory.
9. To request for a Dispensation, the company will comply with the technical and administrative requirements established by the General Directorate of Seafarers and to complete the request form, available in the following link:

http://201.225.255.174/download/index.php?dir=DISPENSAS_AUTORIZACION%2F



Merchant Marine Circular

10. In exceptional cases, the Panama Maritime Authority could grant an Authorization Letter under the condition of “Home Country License”, according to the following situation:

10.1. Single voyage for ship delivery.

10.2. Damage or loss of technical documentation issued by the Panama Maritime Authority to the Seafarers.

10.3. Damage or loss of technical documentation issued by the Panama Maritime Authority to the offshore personnel.

10.4. Special Circumstances.

11. The companies must request the Authorization Letters opportunely and with the due possible anticipation.

12. To request the Authorization Letter, the company must comply with the technical and administrative requirements established by the General Directorate of Seafarers and complete the request form, available in the following link:

[http://201.225.255.174/download/index.php?dir=DISPENSAS AUTORIZACION%2F](http://201.225.255.174/download/index.php?dir=DISPENSAS_AUTORIZACION%2F)

13. The Panama Maritime Authority may grant an “Attesting Letter” with the objective of attesting the technical documentation for seafarers, issued by this Maritime Administration in case it is required by the Port State Control Authorities or any Competent Authority.

14. To request an “Attesting Letter”, the company must comply with the following requirements:

14.1. Request through an e-mail, detailing the situation.

14.2. Crew List duly signed and stamped either by the Master or the Company.



Merchant Marine Circular

14.3. Technical Documentation issued by the Panama Maritime Authority.

14.4. Copy of the valid Ship Registry Certificate.

15. [ADM Resolution No. 072-2021 of April 30, 2021.](#)

June, 2021 – Change in the Subject; change in the paragraph # 1, # 2 and # 3 and new paragraphs # 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

August, 2018

July, 2008.

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

Certification Department and Compliance and Enforcement Department
General Directorate of Seafarers
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5055 / 5203 / 5062 / 5199 / 5288

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

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