

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-235

- To:** Parties, Administrations, Port State Supervisory Authorities, Ship-owners / Operators, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Company Security Officers, Seafarers, Legal Representatives, Authorized Maritime Training Centers, Authorized Medical Practitioners, Private Consulates of Merchant Marine, Inspectorates, Authorized Offices, Brokers, and users of the Panama Ship Registry.
- Subject:** Adoption and regulation of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (1978 STCW Convention, as amended) and its STCW Code.
- Reference:** 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, Law No. 4 of May 15, 1992; Resolution J.D. No. 076-2020 of October 8, 2020 and its modifications; Resolution ADM No. 148-2011 of November de 18, 2011; Resolution ADM No. 276-2015 of December 28, 2015; Resolution ADM No. 232-2016 of December 29, 2016; Resolution ADM No. 123-2017 of July 28, 2017; Resolution J.D. No. 053-2021 of August 2, 2021; Resolution ADM No. 249-2021 of November 12, 2021; Resolution ADM No. 302-2023 of December 29, 2023 and Resolution J.D. No. 033-2024 of November 27, 2024. Circular No. DGGM-008 (**Only Recommendation**).

1. Purpose

- 1.1.** The purpose of this Circular is to communicate to the users of the Panamanian Registry, the regulations of the Republic of Panama and the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) by means of which the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (1978 STCW Convention, as amended) and its STCW Code, including Amendments 2010, 2014, 2015, 2016 2021 and 2023, have been adopted and regulated.

2. Scope

- 2.1.** These regulations apply to all seafarers serving on seagoing ships registered under the Panamanian flag; ship-owners, operators and companies of Panamanian flag ships; maritime training centers and branches authorized by the PMA; medical practitioners authorized by the PMA; broker or any office authorized to carry out requests of technical documentation for seafarers by the PMA, and to all interested parties, under the provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, and its STCW Code.

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Exceptions from the application of these regulations are seafarers serving on board:

- 2.1.1.** Warships, naval auxiliaries or other ships owned or operated by a State and engaged only on governmental non-commercial service.
 - 2.1.2.** Fishing vessels.
 - 2.1.3.** Pleasure yachts not engaged in trade.
 - 2.1.4.** Wooden ships of primitive build.
- 3.** The regulations of the Republic of Panama and the PMA by means of which the provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended and its STCW Code, have been adopted and regulated, are detailed below:
 - 3.1.** [Law No. 4 of May 15, 1992](#): by which the Republic of Panama approves the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (1978 STCW Convention, as amended).
 - 3.2.** [Resolution J.D. No. 076-2020 of October 8, 2020](#): by which the PMA approves the Regulations of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers working on board seagoing ships in accordance with the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, which contains the standards for the training and certification of seafarers, in compliance with the provisions established in the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, and its STCW Code.
 - 3.2.1.** [Resolution J.D. No. 053-2021 of August 2, 2021](#): by which articles 2 and 17 of the Annex to the Resolution J.D. No. 076-2020 of October 8, 2020, are modified.
 - 3.2.2.** [Resolution J.D. No. 033-2024 of November 27, 2024](#): by which articles 3, 4, 5 and 7 are modified, and Chapter XXIV and article 62 are added to the Annex to the Resolution J.D. No. 076-2020 of October 8, 2020..
 - 3.3.** [Resolution ADM No. 148-2011 of November 18, 2011](#): by which the PMA adopts the 2010 Amendments (the Manila Amendments) to the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended and its STCW Code, adopted by Resolutions 1 and 2 of the Conference of Parties to this Convention held in Manila, Philippines in 2010.
 - 3.4.** [Resolution ADM No. 276-2015 of December 28, 2015](#): by which the PMA adopts the 2014 Amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended and its STCW Code, adopted by Resolutions MSC.373(93) and MSC.374(93), both dated May 22, 2014, and entered into force on January 1, 2016, regarding:
 - 3.4.1.** Chapter I (New definitions in Regulation I/1, subparagraphs 1.37-1.40 and new Regulation I/16) of the Convention, and

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- 3.4.2.** Chapter I to part A of the STCW Code (New Section A-1/16 and new text in notes 6 and 7 of Table A-1/9).
- 3.5.** [Resolution ADM No. 232-2016 of December 29, 2016](#): by which the PMA adopts the 2015 Amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended and its STCW Code, adopted by Resolutions MSC.396(95) and MSC.397(95), both dated June 11, 2015, and entered into force on January 1, 2017, regarding:
- 3.5.1.** Chapter I (New definition in Regulation I/1, subparagraph 1.41 and amendment to the Regulation I/11) and Chapter V (New Regulation V/3) of the Convention, and
- 3.5.2.** Chapter V to part A of the STCW Code (New Section A-V/3).
- 3.6.** [Resolution ADM No. 123-2017 of July 28, 2017](#): by which the PMA adopts the 2016 Amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended and its STCW Code, adopted by Resolutions MSC.416(97) y MSC.417(97), both dated November 25, 2016, and entered into force on July 1, 2018, regarding:
- 3.6.1.** Chapter I (New definitions in Regulation I/1, subparagraphs 1.42-1.43 and amendment to the Regulation I/11) and Chapter V (Regulation V/2 is replaced and new Regulation V/4) of the Convention, and
- 3.6.2.** Chapter I (Amendment to the Section A-I/11 and Section A-I/14) and Chapter V (Section A-V/2 and Tables A-V/2-1 y A-V/2-2 are replaced, New Section A-V/4 and Tables A-V/4-1 and A-V/4-2) to part A of the STCW Code.
- 3.7.** [Resolution ADM No. 249-2021 of November 12, 2021](#): by which the PMA adopts the 2021 Amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended and its STCW Code, adopted by Resolutions MSC.486(103) and MSC.487(103), both dated May 13, 2021, and entered into force on January 1, 2023, regarding:
- 3.7.1.** Chapter I (New definition in Regulation I/1, subparagraph 1.44) of the Convention, and
- 3.7.2.** Chapter I to part A of the STCW Code (Amendment to the definition in the Section A-I/1, subparagraph .3.1).
- 3.8.** [Resolution ADM No. 302-2023 of December 29, 2023](#): by which the PMA adopts the 2023 Amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended and its STCW Code, adopted by Resolutions MSC.540(107) and MSC.541(107), both dated June 8, 2023, and entered into force on January 1, 2025, regarding:
- 3.8.1.** Chapter I (New definition in Regulation I/1, subparagraph 1.45 and the paragraph 11 is replaced, together with a footnote in Regulation I/2) of the Convention, and



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3.8.2. Chapter I to part A of the STCW Code (Paragraph 4 in the Section A-I/2 is replaced).

July, 2025 – The Reference and the paragraphs # 1.1. and 3.2.2. are modified, and the paragraphs # 3.8, 3.8.1. and 3.8.2. are added.

December, 2023 – Change subject, the paragraphs # 1, 2 and 3, are modified, and the paragraphs # 4, 5, 6 and 7 are deleted.

June, 2019 - “Added links”

July, 2017 - “Added Paragraphs 1, 5 and 7”.

January, 2012 - “Modified Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4”

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

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

Phone: (507) 501-5288 / 5378

E-mail: cumplimientodggm@amp.gob.pa

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