

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-290

- To:** Ship-owners/Operators, Legal Representatives of Panama Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates, Class Societies, Recognized Organizations (RO's) and Management Companies.
- Subject:** Accession of the Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea, 2002.
- Reference:**
- a) Law No. 96, 7 November 2013.
 - b) IMO Circular Letter No. 2758, November 20, 2006.
 - c) Resolution J.D. No. 038-2014.
 - d) Resolution J.D. No. 028-2022 dated June 14, 2022.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. Inform that the Republic of Panama submitted to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization, the accession of the Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea, 1974, on January 23, 2014, in accordance with article 17.
- 1.2. Following the requirements of the article 20 (2), of the Athens Convention 2002, which indicates that "For any State which ratifies, accepts, approves or accedes to this Protocol after the conditions in paragraph 1 for entry into force have been met, this Protocol shall enter into force three months after the date of deposit by such State of the appropriate instrument, but not before this Protocol has entered into force in agreement with paragraph 1."; the Protocol will enter into force for Panama on April 23, 2014.
- 1.3. When passengers are carried on board a ship registered in a State Party that is licensed to carry more than twelve passengers, and the Athens Convention applies, any carrier who actually performs the whole or a part of the carriage shall maintain insurance or other financial security, such as the guarantee of a bank or similar financial institution, to cover liability under this Convention in respect of the death of and personal injury to passengers. The limit of the compulsory insurance or other



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financial security shall not be less than 250,000 units of account per passenger on each distinct occasion, according to article 4bis (1).

2. Certificate

- 2.1. In accordance with the provisions of article 4bis (2) “a certificate attesting that insurance or other financial security is in force in accordance with the provisions of
- 2.2. Athens Convention shall be issued to each ship after the appropriate authority of a State Party has determined that the requirements of paragraph 1 have been complied with.”
- 2.3. The Panama Maritime Authority will issue Athens Convention Certificates to ships flagged in States not party to the Convention.
- 2.4. The certificates issued before April 23, 2014 by other Administrations to Panamanian flagged vessels, will remain valid until their expiry date.
- 2.5. The Insurers/ P&I Clubs approved to issue the Blue Cards required by the Athens Convention 2002 are the same one listed in our Merchant Marine Circular No. MMC-202.

3. Application

- 3.1. This Administration kindly reminds applicants that, since **September 01, 2025**, requests are submitted through the new platform [SEGUMAR 2.0](#). Additionally, please make sure that the Blue Card is readily available to upload in the system, and a copy of the official payment receipt made by SEGUMAR Miami Office, the Central Office in Panama, or the Merchant Marine Qualified Consulate, as indicated in **MMC-219**, has been made.
- 3.2. The cost of the Certificate will be \$300.00.
- 3.3. On the blue cards, the field labeled “TO” the information to be used is as follows:

Panama Maritime Authority
P.O. Box 0843-0533 Balboa, Ancon
Panama, Republic of Panama

4. Handling fee

- 4.1. In addition to each Certificate regular fee, from September 25, 2022, an additional charge applies for reviewing and handling documentation of fifty dollars (USD50.00),



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for the issuance of any other technical certificate duly authorized by the General Directorate of Merchant Marine or through any SEGUMAR Office in a Merchant

Marine Consulate, including the SEGUMAR offices in the State of Florida, the United States of America based in the city of Miami and SEGUMAR Head Office. The additional charge applies for the issuance in Panama, of technical certificates by the General Directorate of Merchant Marine. This charge shall be reflected in the official receipt, as fees for this service. (Resolution J.D. No.028-2022 dated June 14, 2022).

January, 2026 – Paragraph 3.1 was amended.

September, 2022 – Paragraph 4 and 4.1 added.

August, 2017 – Amendment to paragraph 3.1.

February, 2015 – Subject: word Ratification replaced by Accession. Last sentence in 3.1 was deleted. After 3.1 new point 3.2 inserted. Reference to Resolution J.D. No. 038-2014.

June, 2014.

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

SEGUMAR-Panama
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5353/50/48

E-mail: segumar.headoffice@segumar.com

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