

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-385

- To:** Parties, Administrations, Port State Supervisory Authorities, Ship-owners / Operators, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Company Security Officers, 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:** Dispensation for Ship's Cook - Regulation 3.2, Standard A3.2, paragraph 6 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006, as amended).
- Reference:** MLC, 2006, as amended, Law No. 2 of January 6, 2009 and Executive Decree No. 86 of February 22, 2013 and its modifications.
Merchant Marine Circular Merchant MMC-202 - List of Approved P&I Clubs/Insurers.
Circular No. DGGM-046 (**Only Recommendation**).
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1. Purpose

- 1.1.** The purpose of this Circular is to inform to the users of the Panamanian Registry, that based on Regulation 3.2, Standard A3.2, paragraph 6 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006, as amended), the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) may issue a Dispensation for Ship's Cook, in circumstances of exceptional necessity, permitting a non-fully qualified cook to serve in a specified ship for a specified limited period.

2. Scope

- 2.1.** This Merchant Marine Circular applies to all seafarers, ship-owners, operators, and companies under the provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006, as amended).

- 3.** The General Directorate of Seafarers of the Panama Maritime Authority is in charge of the issuance of the Dispensations for Ship's Cook under the MLC 2006, as amended.

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4. The Dispensation for Ship's Cook under the MLC 2006, as amended, applies only to ships with a prescribed manning of ten (10) crew or more. In the case of ships operating with a prescribed manning of less than ten (10) crew, the PMA has not objection a non-fully qualified cook serves on board.
5. The Dispensation for Ship's Cook will be issued through the Head Office and the Regional Documentation Offices (RDO) of the General Directorate of Seafarers, to the contact information detailed below:

AMERICA		
Certification Department (Central Office in Panama)	certification@amp.gob.pa	(+507) 501-5062/5325
RDO in Miami, United States of America	regionalmiami@amp.gob.pa	(+1) (305) 686-6882
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 en 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) 070-4694-4096 / 4097
RDO in Manila, The Philippines	infoampmanila@amp.gob.pa	(+63) 2 8834-2393
RDO in Tokyo, Japan	crew-license@panaconsul-tokyo.com	(+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. 203
RDO in Mumbai, India	ord.mumbai@amp.gob.pa	(+91) 022 – 6828-3100



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6. To request a Dispensation for Ship's Cook, 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:

6.1 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).

7. The Dispensation for Ship's Cook has no fee from the Panama Maritime Authority.
8. The Dispensation for Ship's Cook will be issued until the next convenient port of call or for a period not exceeding one (1) month, provided that the person to whom the dispensation is issued is trained or instructed in areas including food and personal hygiene as well as the handling and storage of food on board ship, applying the ***Instructions for Handling, Storage and Preparation of Food*** approved by the PMA, which is available at the following link:

8.1. [Instructions for Handling, Storage and Preparation of Food.](#)

9. The Minimum Safe Manning Certificate will be considered as part of the requirements to evaluate the necessity of a Dispensation for Ship's Cook.
10. The List of P&I Clubs/Insurers approved by Merchant Marine Circular **MMC-202** will be considered as part of the requirements to evaluate the Financial Security under Regulation 2.5, Standard A2.5.2 (Repatriation) and Regulation 4.2, Standard A4.2.1 (Shipowners' Liability), under the MLC, 2006, as amended.
11. The companies must request the Dispensation for Ship's Cook opportunely and with the due possible anticipation.
12. The companies may request an extension of the Dispensation for Ship's Cook, which will be granted for the period determined by the PMA, which will not exceed one (1) month, in each case will be evaluated by the PMA, depending on the performance of the ship and the company.

December, 2023 – Reference and the paragraphs # 5, 9, 10 and 11 are modified, and the paragraph # 12 is added.

October, 2023 – The paragraphs # 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are modified, and the paragraphs # 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are added.



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June, 2021- *Modified Paragraph 4.*

April, 2021 - *Modified Paragraph 1 and addition of two new paragraphs (2 and 5).*

July, 2020.

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

Certification Department
General Directorate of Seafarers
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5055 / 5199 / 5062 / 5325

E-mail: certification@amp.gob.pa

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