

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-392

- To:** Owners/Operators of Panamanian flagged vessels, Recognized, Organizations, Masters and Annual Safety Inspectors, and all other stakeholders.
- Subject:** International Code of the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code).
- Reference:**
- a) Resolutions MSC.5(48); MSC.6(48); MSC.17(58); MSC.30(61); MSC.32(63); MSC.59(67); MSC.103(73); MSC.177(79); adopted through **Resolution No. 106-OMI-138-DGMM**, dated December 17, 2008.
 - b) Resolution MSC.225(82) adopted through **Resolution No.106-OMI-49-DGMM**, dated March 19, 2008.
 - c) Resolution MSC.220(82); adopted through **Resolution No. 106-OMI-53**, dated 19 March 2008.
 - d) Resolutions MSC.370(93) and MSC.377(93) adopted through **Resolution No. 106-OMI-160-DGMM**, dated December 24, 2015.
 - e) Resolutions MSC.411(97); MSC.441(99) and MSC.447(99) adopted through **Resolution No.107-OMI-219-DGMM**, dated December 11, 2019.

1. Purpose.

- 1.1.** The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform Owners/Operators, Recognized Organizations, Masters, and Annual Safety Inspectors on the applicable procedures regarding the amendments to the IGC Code.

Merchant Marine Circular

2. Application and Implementation.

- 2.1.** The Code applies to ships regardless of their size, including those of less than 500 gross tonnages, engaged in the carriage of liquefied gases having a vapor pressure exceeding 0.28 MPa absolute at a temperature of 37.8°C and other products, as shown in chapter 19, when carried in bulk.
- 2.2.** Unless expressly provided otherwise, for ships constructed on or after 1 July 1986 and before July 1, 2016, the Administration shall ensure that the requirements which are applicable under this Code, as adopted by resolution MSC.5(48) as amended by resolutions MSC.17(58), MSC.30(61), MSC.32(63), MSC.59(67), MSC.103(73), MSC.177(79) and MSC.220(82), are complied with.
- 2.3.** Continuing with the above paragraph, Unless expressly provided otherwise, the amendments adopted by Resolution MSC.370(93), applies to ships whose keels are:
1. construction identified with the ship begins; and
 2. assembly of that ship has begun, comprising of at least 50 tones or 1% of the estimated mass of all structural material, whichever is less,
- 2.4.** When cargo tanks do not contain products for which the Code requires a type 1G ship, flammable liquids having a flashpoint of 60°C (closed cup test) or less, nonflammable products listed in chapter 19, shall be carried in tanks located within the protective zones.
- 2.5.** The requirements of this Code shall take precedence when a ship is designed and constructed for the carriage of the following products:
1. Those listed exclusively in chapter 19 of the Code; and
 2. One or more of the products that are listed both in the Code and in the International Bulk Chemical Code. These products are marked with an asterisk in column "a" in the table within chapter 19.

Merchant Marine Circular

When a ship is exclusively intended to carry one or more of the products referred to in 1.1.7.1.2, the requirements of the International Bulk Chemical Code, as amended, shall apply. The ship's compliance with the requirements of the International Gas Carrier Code shall be shown by its International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk, as described in 1.5. Compliance with the amendments to the Code, as appropriate, shall also be indicated in the International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk.

2.6. When a ship is intended to operate for periods at a fixed location in a re-gasification and gas discharge mode or a gas receiving, processing, liquefaction and storage mode, the Administration and port Administrations involved in the operation shall take appropriate steps to ensure implementation of the provisions of the Code as well as the applicable arrangements to the proposed. Furthermore, additional requirements shall be established based on the principles of the Code as well as recognized standards that address specific risks not foreseen by it. Such risks may include, but not limited to:

1. Fire and explosion;
2. Evacuations;
3. Extensions of hazardous areas;
4. Pressurized gas discharge to shore;
5. High-pressure gas venting;
6. Process upset conditions;
7. Storage and handling of flammable refrigerants;
8. Continuous presence of liquid and vapor cargo outside the cargo containment system;
9. Tank over-pressure and under-pressure;
10. Ship-to-ship transfer of liquid cargo; and
11. Collision risk during berthing maneuvers.

Merchant Marine Circular

3. Definitions.

3.1. The following new definition is included on the amendments:

3.2. IGC Code 1983: means the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk set out in the Annex to Resolution MSC.5(48) adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of IMO on June 17, 1983, as amended by Resolutions MSC.17(58), MSC.103(73) and MSC.177(79) adopted by the Committee.

3.3. IGC Code 1993: means the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk set out in the Annex to Resolution MSC. 5(48) adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of IMO on June 17, 1983, as amended by Resolutions MSC.17(58), MSC.30(61), MSC.32(63), MSC.59(67), MSC.103(73), MSC.177(79) and MSC.220(82) adopted by the Committee.

3.4. IGC Code 2014: means the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk set out in the Annex to Resolution MSC.370(93) adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO on May 22, 2014, as occasionally revised or amended by any revision or amendment that applies to the Republic of Panama.

3.5. IGC Code 2016: means the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk set out in the Annex to Resolutions MSC.411(97); MSC.441(99); MSC.447(99); adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO on May 22, 2014, as occasionally revised or amended by any revision or amendment that applies to the Republic of Panama.

3.6. Anniversary date: in relation to an International Certificate of Fitness that is in force means the day and month of each year which corresponds to the expired date of the certificate.

Merchant Marine Circular

3.7. Gas carrier: means a cargo ship constructed or adapted and use for the carriage in bulk of:

- (a) Any liquefied gas listed in Chapter 19 of the applicable IGC Code; or
- (b) Any other substance listed in that Chapter.

3.8. International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk: Means a certificate issued in conformity with Chapter 1 of the applicable IGC Code by or on behalf of the Administration of the State in which the ship is registered.

4. Survey and Certificate.

4.1. The structure, equipment, fittings, arrangements and material (other than items in respect of which a Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate, Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate and Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate; or Cargo Ship Safety Certificate, required by the SOLAS Convention, are issued) of a gas carrier shall be subjected to the following surveys:

- (a) An initial survey before the ship is put in service or before an International Certificate of Fitness is issued in regards of the ship for the first time, which shall include a complete examination of its structure, equipment, fittings, arrangements and materials as far as the ship is covered by the applicable IGC Code; such survey shall ensure that the structure, equipment, fittings, arrangements and materials fully comply with the applicable provisions of the IGC Code.
- (b) A renewal survey at intervals not to exceed 5 years shall be such as to ensure that the structure, equipment, fittings, arrangements and materials fully comply with the applicable IGC Code.
- (c) an intermediate survey within the period starting 3 months before and ending 3 months after either the second anniversary date or third anniversary date of the International Certificate of Fitness issued in regards to the ship able to ensure that the safety equipment and other equipment, as well as the associated pump and piping systems fully comply with the applicable IGC Code and are in good working order; this survey shall be endorsed on the certificate.

Merchant Marine Circular

- (d) An annual survey within the period starting 3 months before and ending 3 months after the anniversary date of the International Certificate of Fitness issued in regards to the ship which shall include a general examination to ensure that the structure, equipment, fittings, arrangements and materials remain satisfactory for the service for which the ship is intended; the survey shall be endorsed on the certificate.
- (e) An additional survey, either general or partial according to the circumstances, shall be made when it has been determined to be necessary, or whenever any important repairs or renewals are made; such a survey shall ensure that the necessary repairs or renewals have been indeed made, that the materials and workmanship of such repairs or renewals are satisfactory, and that the ship is fit to proceed to sea, without:
 - (i) Posing any danger to the ship or persons on board; or
 - (ii) Presenting any unreasonable threat of harm to the marine environment.

4.2. If, after completion of an initial or renewal survey, the issuing authority is satisfied that the ship complies with the relevant requirements of the applicable IGC Code, the issuing authority must issue an International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk in respect of the ship.

5. Equivalents.

Where the IGC Code requires that a particular fitting, material, appliance, apparatus, item of equipment or type thereof shall be fitted or carried in a ship, or that any particular provision should be made, or any procedure or arrangement should be complied with, the Administration may allow any other fitting, material, appliance, apparatus, item of equipment or type thereof to be fitted or carried, or any other provision, procedure or arrangement to be made in that ship, if it is satisfied by trial thereof or otherwise that such fitting, material, appliance, apparatus, item of equipment or type thereof, or that any particular provision, procedure or arrangement is at least as effective as that required by the applicable IGC Code.

Any equivalent application shall be submitted to the following email address: exemptions@segumar.com & ro-panama@segumar.com or any SEGUMAR international Office.



Merchant Marine Circular

6. Exemptions.

This Administration may grant exemptions from the provisions of a Code, if the ship complies with the conditions established, for the specific exemption, refer to MMC-156 paragraph 4.

A request for an Exemption Certificate shall be sent to any of the SEGUMAR Offices by the Ship's owner/ operator, legal representative, or Recognized Organization.

7. ASI INSPECTORS SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.

The ASI inspectors authorized by the Republic of Panama, must take into account the provisions of this MMC when performing the inspections of the vessels that the IGC Code applies to.

May, 2021 – New.

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

SEGUMAR-PANAMA
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5363 / 61 / 62 / 50 / 48

E-mail: international.offices@segumar.com

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