

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-406

- 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:** Transitional provisions regarding the new 2024 Amendments to the STCW Code on prevention and response to violence and harassment, including bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault.
- Reference:** 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, Law No. 4 of May 15th, 1992; Resolution J.D. No. 076-2020 of October 8th, 2020 and its modifications; Resolution ADM No. 150-2025 of November de 24th, 2025
Circular No. DGGM-055 (**Only Recommendation**).

1. Purpose

- 1.1.** The purpose of this Circular is to communicate to the users of the Panamanian Registry, the transitional provisions of the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) regarding the new Amendments to the STCW Code on prevention and response to violence and harassment, including bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault.

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.

3. Provisions regarding the training of seafarers:

All maritime training centers authorized by the PMA to provide training in person and/or distance learning, electronic (E-Learning), or blended (B-Learning) modality, and whose authorization includes the Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities training course, must:

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- 3.1. From January 1st, 2026, conduct the Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities course using the updated Guide in compliance with the new version (Version 01) of the Guide for the development of the Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities training course, Regulation VI/1, Section A-VI/1, Table A-VI/1-4 of the STCW'78 Convention, as amended and its STCW Code, which includes the new competency on prevention and response to violence and harassment, including bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault. Compliance with this provision will be verified by the Maritime Training Department of the General Directorate of Seafarers through certification, inspection, or monitoring audits, as appropriate. This provision does not apply to refresher training.
- 3.2. From January 1st, 2026, the maritime training center must use the template for the Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities training course certificate, which indicates that the training course complies with the new competency on prevention and response to violence and harassment, including bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault, in accordance with the new 2024 amendments to the STCW Code. The template is available at the following [Annex](#).
- 3.3. The list of maritime training centers authorized by the PMA is available on the PMA website at the following link: <https://www.amp.gob.pa/servicios/gente-mar/formacion/>
4. **Provisions regarding the certification of seafarers:**
 - 4.1. From January 1st, 2026, any person who submits an application for technical documentation to the Panama Maritime Authority and whose application requires, as part of the requirements, the Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities training course, Regulation VI/1, Section A-VI/1, Table A-VI/1-4 of the STCW'78 Convention, as amended and its STCW Code, must submit a certificate for this training course, which indicates that the training course complies with the new competency on prevention and response to violence and harassment, including bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault, in accordance with the new 2024 amendments to the STCW Code.
 - 4.2. Any person who entered into an employment contract prior to January 1st, 2026, and is serving on board a Panamanian-flagged vessel, may remain on board until the end of the employment contract. Subsequently, the training must be completed and obtain certification that complies with the new competency on prevention and response to violence and harassment, including bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault, in accordance with the new 2024 amendments to the STCW Code, prior starting the next employment contract. This provision does not affect the validity of Panamanian certificates of competency and/or seaman's books issued before January 1st, 2026, which will remain valid until the expiration date indicated.



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5. The relevant regulations are available at the following link:

5.1. [Resolution ADM No. 150-2025 of November 24th, 2025.](#)

December, 2025 – New.

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: cumplimentodggm@amp.gob.pa

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