

**REPUBLIC OF PANAMA**

*Ministry of Finance and Treasury*

*Office of the Directorate of Merchant Marine Circular No. 32*

*Consular and Maritime Affairs*

<b>To:</b> Shipowners/Operators, Masters of Panamanian Flag Vessels
<b>Subject:</b> Casualties Investigation of Panamanian Flag Vessels
<b>Reference:</b> - Resolution 614-129-ALCN dated 29 April 1983 - Merchant Marine Circular No. 33

1. By means of Resolution 614-129-ALCN Panama has approved a set of rules which govern the investigation of marine casualties involving Panamanian flag vessels.
2. In accordance with said Resolution, owner/operators and Masters of Panamanian flag vessels shall notify the nearest Panamanian Maritime Consul or to the Directorate of Consular and Maritime Affairs, New York Representative Office, as soon as possible, the occurrence concerning any serious accident or casualty to or on board such vessels.
3. Owners/Operators or person in charge of the vessel shall retain any records of material pertaining to a voyage upon which a casualty requiring a report occurred; cooperate in the investigation of the marine casualty; provide, when called upon, witnesses in their employ, any relevant books, papers, documents and other records in their possession. Also, they are to permit investigating officers to board and examine a vessel involved in a casualty.
4. Attention is directed to the substance of Merchant Marine Circular No.31 which requires owners/operators of the vessel to file a formal casualty report.

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular should be directed to:  
Directorate of Consular and Maritime Affairs, New York Representative Office,  
Republic of Panama, 1180 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor  
New York, New York 10036, U.S.A.