

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

Ministry of Finance and Treasury

Office of the Directorate of Merchant Marine Circular No. 92

Consular and Maritime Affairs

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian flag Vessels, Class Societies and other
Authorized Organizations
Subject: GMDSS Radio Qualified Personnel on board Panamanian flag Vessels

For a vessel fitted with GMDSS, the following would be the requirements for radio qualified personnel:

1. GMDSS Radio Operator - Restricted
2. GMDSS Radio Operator - General
3. GMDSS Radio Electronic - First Class
4. GMDSS Radio Electronic - Second Class

If the ship adopts at sea electronic maintenance, then the certificate required by that crewmember would be either 3. or 4. above.

The person designated for maintenance may also be designated as the "Radio Officer" and do radio operator's duties as well. If this is so, then only one of the deck watchstanding officers must have certificates of either 1. or 2. above. If the radio maintenance person is not designated as the radio officer of the vessel, then at least two deck watchstanding officers are to have certificates of either 1. or 2. above.

If a watchstanding deck officer is to operate the GMDSS equipment then he must have any one of the above certificates, whether or not the ship carries an exclusive radio officer.

In a case where there is no exclusive radio officer on board, at least two (2) deck watchstanding officers are to have certificates of either 1. or 2. above.

Panama has validated the certificates of competency of forty three (43) countries, and, hence, any person serving on Panamanian registered vessels having one of the certificates denoted above from any of these forty three (43) countries, can apply for the Panamanian corresponding equivalent certificate.

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