

Panama Maritime Authority
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
International Representative Office, New York

Merchant Marine Circular No. 116

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian Ships and Class Societies

Subject: Surveys of Passenger Ships

Panama is party to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974, as amended by the Protocol, 1978 (SOLAS). SOLAS Chapter I, Regulation 7 specify provisions concerning surveys of passenger ships, including the outside of the ships bottom

This Administration does not support consecutive underwater surveys to meet requirements of SOLAS Reg. Ch-I/7. Every Panamanian Passenger ships shall undergo Dry-docking survey at least every other year allowing underwater survey in lieu of dry-docking in the intervening year.

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, passenger ships of less than 15 years of age, which are classed and are recommended by their Recognized Organization, may be allowed to be surveyed in drydock only twice during any five year period. However, the span between these drydock examinations shall not exceed three years. The remaining bottom surveys of these ships can be carried out as underwater surveys. Consecutive underwater surveys will be allowed for these ships.

Operators of Panamanian Passenger ships of less than 15 years of age will make the request for underwater survey in lieu of drydock directly to the ship's Recognized Organization. The Recognized Organization will evaluate the request and, after considering all relevant information, make a recommendation to this office. If the request is approved, the underwater examinations will be performed according to the Recognized Organization procedures, by personnel of companies certified by the Recognized Organization to do these surveys and, to the satisfaction of the attending surveyor.

Recognized Organizations acting in our behalf are requested to act accordingly.

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