



## PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

PanCanal Building  
Albrook, Panama City  
Republic of Panama  
Tel: (507) 501-5000  
segumar@segumar.com

### MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-209

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**To: Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (RO's).**

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**Subject: Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Management Plan**

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**Reference: Resolution MEPC 176 (58), adopted by Resolution 106-OMI-80-DGMM and Resolution MEPC185 (59)**

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1. The purpose of this circular is to inform about the resolution MEPC 176 (58), which will be coming into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010, which amends MARPOL Annex VI regulation 15.6. It states that all tankers carrying crude oil (for which MARPOL Annex VI is applicable- vessels more than 400GT) shall minimize Volatile Organic Compounds emission by implementing and having onboard a Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) management plan approved by the Administration.
  2. This Administration authorizes all Recognized Organizations (RO's) duly approved for issuing the certificates related to Annex VI of MARPOL Convention, on behalf of the Republic of Panama, to carry out the revision of the VOC Management Plans as well as its corresponding approvals.
  3. Consequently, all Recognized Organizations (RO's), at the moment to carry out the verification of the VOC Management Plan, shall make sure that the Resolution MEPC 185 (59), "Guidelines for the Development of the VOC Management Plan", has been used as guidance for the development of such plan.
  4. We invite all users of our registry to use any of the Segumar Offices for your better convenience.

July, 2010

**Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to:  
Directorate General of Merchant Marine  
Panama Maritime Authority  
Phone: (507) 501-5033  
Fax: (507) 501-5083**