



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
**MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-280**

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

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**Subject: Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) – Short Term**

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**Reference: Law 2 of January 6, 2009**

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1. The purpose of this Circular is to inform users of the Panamanian Registry that, as per ILO Resolution XVII, during a period of one year following the initial entry into force of the Convention, Members (both flag and port States) give due consideration to allowing ships to continue to operate without the certificate and declaration referred to, provided that their inspectors have no evidence that the ships do not conform to the requirements of the Convention. It is highly important that, upon the entry into force of the Convention and the new responsibilities relating to the control that, in accordance to Regulation 5.2, shall concern the port state on 20 August 2013 for the 30 Members, the Resolution:

Requires also that, during the period of one (1) year after the entry into force of the convention, the Members (both the Flag State and the Port States Control) take into duly consideration the possibility of allowing vessels to continue operating without the certificate and the declaration previously mentioned, as long as their inspectors do not have any evidence that the vessels do not comply with the requirements of the Convention.

This resolution refers specifically to the difficult exercises that are to be transitorily faced by those Members whose ratification has a result the initial entry into force of the Convention (<<the first 30s>>). The Members for which the Convention is valid shall also timely contemplate the possibility to extend a similar consideration, during the control inspections by the Port State Control carried out during the initial period of transition, to the vessels flying the flag of the Members that have ratified the convention between 20 August, 2012 and 20 August, 2013. Member states are requested to provide such information to the competent authorities of their respective countries.

2. Those ships not duly certified before the entry into force of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, may request in a voluntary basis a short term certificate for a period of six months, to any authorized Recognized Organization duly authorized to issue the Maritime Labour Certificate.
3. That the authorized Recognized Organization, before issuing such certificate, shall conduct a documentary review while the necessary registries are generated for the detailed inspection, the verification of the DMLC Part II and the definitive certification of the vessel.
4. That the short term certificate shall annex the report of the documentary review so that it is available to the corresponding authorities.
5. That at the end of the six months, the vessels shall have on board the Maritime Labour Certificate, valid for five years, in accordance to the requirements of the Standard A5.1.3 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

<i>Prepared by: Translator</i>	<b>Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief</b>	<i>Aproved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i>
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6. That only the recognized organizations authorized to issue the Maritime Labour Certificate may issue the short term certificate, which cannot be extended.
7. As of August 2014 (one year following the initial entry into force of the Convention), all ships, regardless of their category, shall maintain the maritime Labour Certificate on board.

**September, 2013** – modification of point 1

**August, 2013** – correction on paragraph 4

**July, 2013**

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