



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
**Directorate General of Merchant Marine**  
Segumar Panama

## Merchant Marine Circular No. 204

**To: Shipowners/Operators, Masters, Legal Representatives and Recognized Organizations**

**Subject: Out side Ship's Bottom inspection and Dry docking Interface Periods for Panamanian Flagged Vessels.**

**References: Resolution A. 1053(27) REVOKES Resolutions A.997(25), A.1020(26) and MEPC.180(59).Law Decree No. 7, SOLAS 74 as amended, Resolution MSC.204(81)**

**This Circular supersede MMC No. 141 AND MMC No. 116**

This Circular contains the dry-docking survey interval requirements for the Panamanian flag registered vessels. The instructions described in this circular have been prepared based on the Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification, 2009 set out in the annex of the Resolution A1053(27) as amended, and as Panama Maritime Authority has determined.

Outside ship's bottom inspections are to be attended by a surveyor from a Recognized Organization. The Administration may request at any time the survey report and related documentation used for the analysis and evaluation of the ship's conditions.

The Panama Maritime Authority notifies to all Ship Owners/ Operators, Legal Representatives and Recognized Organizations that the **outside ship's bottom inspection** periods for the Panamanian Flag registered ships, are as follows:

**1. Cargo vessels of 500 Gross Tonnage and above:**

- 1.1 Cargo vessels of 500 Gross Tonnage and above in accordance with the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 74 as amended (SOLAS) Regulation I/10(a)(v), all ships in possession of a Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate requires a minimum of two inspections of the outside ship's bottom during any five year period of validity of the relevant certificate.
- 1.2 One such inspection should be carried out on or after the fourth annual survey in conjunction with the Renewal of the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate. Where the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate has been extended under SOLAS 74/88/04, regulation I/14(e) or (f), this five-year period (60 months) may be extended to coincide with the validity of the certificate. In all cases the interval between any two such inspections should not exceed 36 months.
- 1.3 The inspection of the outside of the ship's bottom and the survey of related items,<sup>+</sup> should include an inspection to ensure that they are in a satisfactory condition and fit for the service for which the ship is intended.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.4 Inspections of the outside of the ship's bottom should normally be carried out with the ship in a dry dock. However, consideration may be given to alternate inspections being carried out with the ship afloat. Special consideration should be given before to ships of 15 years of age and over others than bulk carriers and oil tankers in order to permit such surveys afloat, (prior authorization by SEGUMAR Technical Offices).
- 1.5 Inspection of the outside of the ship's bottom of **bulk carriers and oil tankers of 15 years of age and over** should be carried out with the ship in dry dock.
- 1.6 For ships less than 15 years of age, alternate inspections of the ship's bottom not conducted in conjunction with the renewal survey may be carried out with the ship afloat.

<sup>+</sup> Related items as defined in item 5.1 of the Assembly Resolution A1053 (27) as amended.

<sup>1</sup>The definition of "any five-year period" is the five-year period of validity of the International Load Line Certificate.



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.

**4. Fishing vessels of 24 meters in length and above:**

Irrespective of the navigation area shall be subject to a minimum of two inspection of the outside ship's bottom during any five year period. The five year period is defined by the Fishing Vessels Safety Certificate.

**5. Fishing vessels of less than 24 meters in length:**

Irrespective of the navigation area this group of vessels shall be subject to a minimum of two inspection of the ship's outside during any six year period.

**6. Vessel Operating Exclusively on Panamanian Jurisdictional Waters:**

For every vessel with an International Register Certificate, operating exclusively within jurisdictional waters of the Republic of Panama, and regardless of service and tonnage, the two (2) inspections of the outside of the ship's bottom, during any five (5) year period, shall be carried out with the ship in dry dock.

Notwithstanding the above mentioned, this Administration, through SEGUMAR offices could authorize to replace the intermediate outside ship's bottom survey by an in water survey, for ships operating exclusively within the jurisdictional waters of the Republic of Panama after evaluation of criteria such as vessel age, type of service, maintenance checks of ships. This authorization could only be granted on a case by case basis.

**7. Unscheduled Dry-Docking Survey**

Dry docking for emergency repairs after a damage of the ship or any other fortuity circumstances will not be taken as one of the dock attendance specified in this circular if the ship does not carry out the equivalent surveys according to the International Standards, Requirements of the Flag or the Recognized Organization acting on their behalf. The Administration may require the supervision of a Flag State Surveyor if necessary by written order of the General Director of Merchant Marine.

.The Recognized Organization surveyors shall be appointed to attend and supervise the two outside ship's bottom inspections of every ship and submit the Dry Dock Survey Report or In water survey with the conclusion of the inspected areas, repairs and pending items; to keep the same at least at their Main Office. The Administration may request at any time those surveys reports and related documentation used for the analysis and evaluation of the ships condition.

The Dry Docking of Cargo ships should coincide with the renewal or intermediate survey of the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate, International Load Line certificate, International oil Pollution prevention Certificate (if applicable) or any other related certificate.

**April, 2014 – Restructuring of the text of point 1.5 and 1.6 and modification in subject and references**

**January, 2012 - Change of format and addition of point 6.**

**August, 2010 - Change of format and addition of point 6.**

**July 2009**

<sup>+</sup> Related items as defined in item 5.1 of the Assembly Resolution A1053 (27) as amended.

\*The definition of “any five-year period” is the five-year period of validity of the International Load Line Certificate.