



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-292

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To: **Ship-owners/Operators, of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Class Societies and Recognized Organizations (RO's).**

Subject: **Mobile Offshore Units (MOU) - Nondescript Units updated policy**

Reference: **1979, 1989 and 2009 MODU Codes, Resolution No. 106-55-DGMM July 23, 2014.**

1 Purpose

The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to revise the existing policy from Panama for nondescript units.

2 Application

1. Nondescript Units are units other than MODUs and include all types of non-drilling units with configurations as noted in the MODU Code (column-stabilized, submersible, self-elevating and ship/barge type). They may include drilling tenders, accommodation units, construction barges, crane barges, pipe-laying units, etc.
2. All of these units, with one exception, are to be issued a National Mobile Offshore Unit Safety Certificate (MOU SAFETY CERTIFICATE) after they have been found to comply with the relevant MODU Code requirements according to their configuration and, if they are self-propelled, the following:
 - a. SOLAS Chapter V "Safety of Navigation";
 - b. SOLAS Chapter IX "Management for the Safe Operation of Ships" (ISM Code) requirements for cargo vessels;
 - c. SOLAS Chapter XI-2 "Special Measures to Enhance Maritime Security" (ISPS Code) requirements for cargo vessels.
3. The one exception mentioned in item 2 above is for units restricted to operation in inland waters. A Statement of Fact may be issued based on a ROs Rules in lieu of a MOU SAFETY CERTIFICATE.
4. Units restricted to operations in inland waters to which a Statement of Fact Report has been issued before the release of this revision of this policy, do not need to be issued a MOU SAFETY CERTIFICATE. If the Recognized Organization (RO) finds that a MODU Code certificate has been issued to any Nondescript Unit restricted to operation in inland waters, the RO is to advise the Owners/Master to return the MODU certificate for cancellation. If the Owners then desire a Statement of Fact Report, the RO may issue it.

<i>Prepared by: Translator</i>	<i>Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief</i>	<i>Approved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i>	
<i>Control N°: F-RIN-04-01</i>	<i>Version: 05</i>	<i>Date: 21 January, 2013</i>	<i>Page 1 of 2</i>

5. All Recognized Organization duly authorized to issue the Mobile Offshore Units Safety Certificate (MOU Safety Certificate), shall take into account the relevant cost established on Resolution J.D. No.019-2009 of 29 October 2009 amended by Resolution J.D. No.002-2010 of 3 February 2010.

July, 2014

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to:

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