



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-269

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To: **To: Ship-owners/Operators, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates, Inspectorates, Authorized Offices, Regional Documentation Offices of the Panama Maritime Authority, Recognized Organizations (RO's) and Seafarers**

Subject: **Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006), Certification Process, MLC, 2006**

Reference: **Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006)**

1. That through Executive Decree No. 86 of February 22, 2013, the National Legislation on the Maritime Labour Convention, MLC, 2006 was adopted and extensively discussed in tripartite sessions where representatives of seafarers, shipowners and the Panama Maritime Authority participated.

2. The purpose of this circular is to inform users of the Panamanian registry that from March 11, 2013, the International Technical Office of Segumar Panama shall issue at no cost, the Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance, Part I, (DMLC-Part I) in digital format where the national regulations required to certificate the vessel in accordance to the guidelines of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006), are regulated.

3. Vessels with a gross tonnage of 500 GT or more, engaged in international voyages, and those with a gross tonnage equal or over 500 GT flying the Panamanian flag and operating from a port, or between ports from another country, must have on board and in a visible place a copy of the Maritime Labour Convention and the Maritime Labour Certificate complemented with the Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance, which consists of two parts, DMLC-Part I and DMLC-Part II.

4. In accordance with the MLC 2006, the term “international voyage” refers to a voyage from a country to a port located outside such country.

5. Vessels with a gross tonnage from 200 GT to 499 GT engaged in international voyages or voyages between ports, may voluntarily request the Maritime Labour Certificate, for which compliance with all national regulations shall be required.

6. In order to obtain the Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance Part I, using the following link:
<http://certificates.amp.gob.pa/certificates>

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7. Once the DMLC Part I is issued, the shipowner shall complete the Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance Part II (DMLC-Part II), indicating the actions taken in order to ensure permanent compliance with the national requirements during the periods between surveys, as well as the measures proposed for guaranteeing continuous improvement of the aspects subject to survey.

8. That a recognized organization (RO) authorized by the Panama Maritime Authority, shall endorse the Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance Part II (DMLC-Part II), once the full inspection has ended in accordance to the requirements of the MLC, 2006; and shall proceed to issue the Maritime Labour Certificate valid for five (5) years from the date of completion of the inspection on which this Certificate is based, in accordance to the MLC, 2006.

9. The shipowners to whose vessels were conducted a full inspection, as per Regulation 5.1.3 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006), at the time of publication of this circular, are entitled to request the DMLC, Part I; proceed with the corresponding processing and use the inspection report to immediately issue the certificate valid for five (5) years from the date of completion of the inspection which shall be issued by a recognized organization authorized by the Panama Maritime Authority.

10. If a vessel under the Panama Flag is properly certified in accordance with the guidelines of the MLC, 2006 and it changes name or suffers any substantial changes to the structure or equipment covered in Title 3 Standard A3.1, it must request the DMLC-Part I to the administration and the shipowner must prepare the DMLC- Part II, in order to process the renewal of the maritime labour certificate.

11. The DMLC Part II must include the vessel name, the IMO number and the gross tonnage in accordance to the template given by the administration.

12. There shall only be one DMLC Part I template for all vessel categories under the Panama Ships Registry.

13. The recognized organizations authorized shall only act in accordance to the guidelines provided by the Resolution, which authorizes them in matters related to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, (MLC, 2006).

14. The interim maritime labour certificate may be issued for a period not exceeding six months (A5.1.3.6/ A5.1.3.8 of the MLC). In case that the interim certificate expired, is not possible to issue an extension. The RO should request for authorization to mlc@segumar.com to issue a conditional certificate (not allowed to short term), taking into consideration the Paragraph 8 of the MMC 156.

15. Intermediate Surveys: A change of RO would not affect the validity of already issued certificates. Each intermediate survey must use as reference the date of the initial survey whether the vessel change or not of RO.

In case of change from RO to another then the new Certificate will be issued provided the previous certificate remain valid.

16. When the DMLC Part I is requested by the legal representatives these should be the same that mentioned in the patent or ship registry of the vessel. The RO that requested the DMLC Part I shall be responsible to issue the maritime labor certificate of the vessel.

If a RO requests the DMLC Part I and another RO issues the Maritime Labour Certificate the first RO incurred in bad practice.

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17. When authorization is required to revalidate the maritime labor certificate, the request shall be made directly by the RO that issue the maritime labour certificate by e-mail to mlc@segumar.com, indicating the reasons for not carry out the intermediate inspection (Standard A5.1.3.2) on the date indicated and should attach the maritime labor certificate in force.

18. The RO's should request authorization from mlc@segumar.com to carry out the additional inspection regarding to the MLC. To issue the authorization letter the report of the Annual Safety Inspection, Port State Control and/or Recognized Organization should verify by the MLC Section.

19. When the shipowner or operator intend to carry out the renewal in advance of the maritime labour inspection without change or transfer Class or RO.

The Class or RO it is obliged to report the certificate to this administration as per our MMC 159.

When the shipowner or operator intend to carry out the renewal in advance of the maritime labour inspection, and the change or transfer from Class or RO will take place and the procedures established in our MMC 309 regarding Procedures for Transfer of Statutory and Class Certification should be followed.

In both cases it will not be necessary to request authorization for this Administration.

20. This Merchant Marine Circular revokes Merchant Marine Circulars MMC-248, MMC-254, MMC-256 and MMC-280.

October 2017. Addition of new paragraph (19)

August 2017 – Modification of Point 18.

August 2017- Addition of new paragraph (18)

October 2016 - Modification of point 14

October 2016- Modification of point 6 and elimination the paragraphs 3, 17 and 18.

September 2016- Addition of new paragraph

Jun 2016- Modification of point 17 and addition of a two new paragraph (15 and 19)

Aug 2015- Modification of point 17 and addition of new paragraph.

March 2015- Modification of point 17

July 2014- Addition of new email address for Busan

July 2013- Correction of email address in point 15 (Piraeus, Greece)

April 2013- New point 16 and elimination of second paragraph on point 2

March 2013

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

SEGUMAR- Panama

Maritime Labour Section

Directorate General of Merchant Marine

Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-4241/ 4234

Email: mlc@segumar.com

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