



## PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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### MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-307

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**To:** Recognized Organizations (ROs).

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**Subject:** Code for Recognized Organizations (RO Code).

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**Reference:** Resolutions 106-OMI-135-DGMM, 106-OMI-136-DGMM and 106-OMI-137-DGMM  
Resolutions MSC.349(92) and MEPC.237(65)  
MMC.156 - Exemptions of requirements of International Conventions and National Regulations and Issuance of Conditional/ Short Term Certificate  
MMC.159 - Control of the Issuance of Statutory Certificates  
MMC. 272 - List of Exclusive Surveyors

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- 1- The purpose of this Circular is to inform about the Code for Recognized Organizations (RO Code), adopted by IMO Resolutions MSC.349(92) and MEPC.237(65), which will take effect on 1 January 2015 upon the entry into force of the respective amendments to the 1978 MARPOL Protocol, 1974 SOLAS Convention and 1988 Load Lines Protocol.
- 2- All Organizations that are recognized by this Administration shall be in compliance with the RO Code requirements, to perform statutory certification and services under mandatory IMO instruments and national legislation.
- 3- All requirements of the Code are generic and applicable to all Recognized Organizations (ROs), regardless of their type and size and the statutory certification and services provided.
- 4- It is noteworthy that the ROs does not need to provide all types of statutory certification and services and may have a limited scope of recognition, provided that the requirements of the RO Code are applied in a manner that is compatible with the limited scope of recognition.
- 5- It is also important to emphasize several considerations by this Administration relating to certain requirements of the RO Code, as follows:

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## RO CODE

### Part 2

#### 2.8 Transparency

The Administration has determined that the information concerning the status of ships certified by RO's shall be available to the public on the web site of each RO, as follows:

- Name of the vessel,
- IMO Number,
- Call Sign,
- Type of certificate,
- Number of Certificate,
- Date of issue of the Certificate,
- Expiry Date of the Certificate Status of Inspections (window range for upcoming inspections).

Further to the information stated above the RO shall post the Survey Report and any outstanding deficiency or notation to the ship, this information will be available only for this Administration.

#### 3.9.2 Communication/Cooperation with Flag State

Regarding to point 3.9.2.2 of the RO Code, whenever an RO or a Classification Society establish or develop new rules or regulations, they shall notify the Administration, in order to, provide the flag considerations.

The RO shall establish the appropriate communication in relation to:

- a) Enquiries, contracts or other handling, including amendments; and
- b) Flag State feedback, including conformity issues pertaining to statutory certification and services,
- c) The requirements established by point 3.9.2.3 of the RO Code, should be sent by RO's to the following email addresses,

[statutories@segumar.com](mailto:statutories@segumar.com)

[withdraws@segumar.com](mailto:withdraws@segumar.com)

#### 3.9.3 Cooperation between ROs

Each RO shall establish the point of contact where they will receive the communication whenever there is a transfer of class and/or changes from RO's issuing statutory certificates.

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In accordance with point 3.9.3.7 of the RO Code, all RO's shall establish and implement appropriate common requirements and procedures covering at least the points listed in 3.9.3 of the Code

## **7 QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION**

The RO's Quality System shall be periodically assessed and certified in accordance with the point 7 of the Code.

Qualified bodies certifying the RO's shall be accredited according to point 7.2 of the RO Code.

RO's shall refer to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

## **8 AUTHORIZATION OF RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

Regarding point 8.6 of the RO Code the Administration would like to clarify regarding point 8.6.1 and 8.6.2 that this Administration has established procedures for RO's in our Merchant Marine Circular MMC-156 - Exemptions of requirements of International Conventions and National Regulations and Issuance of Conditional/ Short Term Certificate.

In addition, the Administration will authorize the Recognized Organizations (RO's) to act on its behalf by performing the appropriate audit and assessment to determine the scope of the authorization to be granted.

Oversight of Recognized Organizations will be carried out as determined by this Administration.

Moreover, considering that point 8.7 – Records - of the RO Code this Administration requires that the RO shall maintain the following information

all records related to monitoring activities such as:

- a) Plans,
  - b) Reports,
  - c) Non-conformity reports,
  - d) Corrective and preventive action reports, and
  - e) Follow-up reports, if available.
- .2 Results of oversight programme review; and
- .3 Records related to personnel covering subjects, such as:
- a) Assigned personnel competence and performance evaluation;
  - b) Monitoring and/or audit team selection; and

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c) Maintenance and improvement of competence

All ships records shall be maintained during the ship's life period provided that the ship will remain registered under Panama flag..

6- We take this opportunity to reassure the Panama Administration interest and commitment to the maritime industry and users around the world.

December, 2014

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

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