



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY  
(AUTORIDAD MARÍTIMA DE PANAMÁ)  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MERCHANT MARINE  
(DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MARINA MERCANTE)  
DEPARTMENT OF CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE  
(DEPARTAMENTO DE CONTROL Y CUMPLIMIENTO)**

F-265  
(DCCM)  
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**MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-156**

**To:** Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates, Recognized Organizations (RO), Regional Offices, Manning Agencies, Nautical Inspectors, Shipping Companies, Recognized Trainings Organizations

**Subject:** Exemption, Conditionals and Short Term/Provisional Certificates.

**Reference:** Resolution No. 614-440-ALCN of August 11, 1980  
Resolution No. 614-33-ALCN of February 19, 1982

This Merchant Marine Circular supersedes No. 39

The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to clarify the policy of this Administration in relation to the issuance of Exemption, Conditionals and Short Term or Provisional Certificates.

**1. Exemption Certificates**

- 1.1.** This Administration may grant to an individual ship, exemptions from the provisions of a Convention, if the ship complies with the conditions established by such convention, for the specific exemption
- 1.2.** When an exemption is granted to a ship under and in accordance with the provisions of an International Convention an Exemption Certificate shall be issued in addition to the certificates requested by those Conventions.
- 1.3.** A request for an Exemption Certificate shall be sent to the Segumar Panama Office by the Ship's owner/operator, legal representative or Recognized Organization.
- 1.4.** The request must be made for each individual ship separately and must include the following:
  - 1.4.1. Copy of the Provisional/Permanent Certificate of Registry (Patente), (optional)
  - 1.4.2. Copy of the relevant full term statutory certificate and its attached forms and/or supplements.
  - 1.4.3. Application for exemption Certificate properly filled out.

**1.5.** In cases where the Exemption Certificate is requested for the first time, the issuance of such Certificate is of complete prerogative of this Administration; it means that Recognized Organizations will not issue Interim Exemption Certificates without authorization of Segumar Offices.

**1.6.** In cases where there is a renewal or the original Full Exemption Certificate previously issued by this Administration is lost or damaged, Recognized Organizations may issue a Provisional exemption certificate which validity will not exceed thirty (30) days. During this time frame users must apply for the issuance of the Full Term Exemption Certificate and proceed with the correspondent payment.

## **2. Conditional Certificates**

**2.1.** In cases where the condition of a ship or its equipment does not comply with the requirements of an International Convention, this Administration may authorize the Recognized Organization which has issued the vessel's statutory certificate, to issue a Conditional Certificate, provided that the ship is fit to proceed to sea without harm to the ship, persons on board, or without presenting unreasonable threat of harm to the marine environment, allowing the vessel to proceed to a port where the necessary repairs may be carried out.

**2.2.** The Recognized Organization will ensure that the corrective action will be taken and shall, in due course, notify this Administration. Evidence of the corrective actions taken, may include, but are not limited to: survey reports, re-issued certificate, or a formal notification in written. If such corrective action is not taken before the expiration date of the Conditional Certificate, the Certificate shall be withdrawn and the Administration shall be notified immediately.

**2.3.** In cases where a certificate loses its validity due to overdue annual or intermediate endorsements an authorization to issue a Conditional Certificate may be requested to the Administration through Segumar Offices, as a transitional measure until the correspondent revalidation surveys are carried out and new certificates are issued.

**2.4.** The request for authorization to issue Conditional Certificates shall be sent to the Segumar Offices in cases where considered necessary by the owner, operator or legal representatives or by the Recognized Organization. Under no circumstances the Conditional Certificate shall be issued without the previous authorization of Segumar Offices.

**2.5.** The request must be made for each individual ship separately and must include:

- a) Reasons to issue a Conditional Certificate
- b) Copy of the current statutory certificate, available onboard, relevant to the Conditional Certificate.

**2.6.** The validity of a Conditional Certificate must not exceed ninety (90) days. This Administration will not authorize the extension or re-issuance of such Conditional Certificates, and will not authorize extensions of statutory certificates exceeding ninety days. In exceptional circumstances and previous a comprehensive evaluation by Segumar Offices, it might be considered granting longer validity periods of Conditional Certificates, the extension or re-issuance of existing conditional certificates.

### **3. Short Term/Provisional Certificates**

- 3.1.** When a vessel or Company has been found to comply with all the requirements of an International Convention or Code and the additional requirements of this Administration, after the correspondent surveys or audits (initial or renewal), the Recognized Organization may issue a Short Term or Provisional Certificate, as a transitional measure until the correspondent Full Term Certificate is issued and placed on board. The validity of this Short Term or Provisional Certificate must not exceed five (5) months.
- 3.2.** For certificates issued by virtue of the ISPS Code please refer to MMC-359, and for certificates issued by virtue of the MLC 2006 please refer to MMC-269.

**October 2018- Uptdated point 2.6**

**July 2018 - Updated MMC 359 in point 3.2**

**October 2016 – New Purpose added, modifications to paragraphs 1, 2, 3, Paragraphs 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 were eliminated and resumed in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.**

**February, 2012 – Modifications in points 7, 8, 9 and 10.**

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

**Directorate General of Merchant Marine**

**Panama Maritime Authority**

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