



REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

Ministry of Finance and Treasury

Office of the Directorate of Merchant Marine Circular No.99

Consular and Maritime Affairs

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian flag Vessels, Class Societies and Authorized Organizations

Subject: GMDSS Radio Qualified Personnel on board Panamanian Flag Vessels

This Merchant Marine Circular replaces MMC No. 92

There are four categories of Certificates for personnel operating GMDSS equipment:

First-Class Radio Electronic (GMDSS)

Second-Class Radio Electronic (GMDSS)

General Radio Operator (GMDSS)

Restricted Radio Operator (GMDSS)

Panama has validated the certificates of competency of forty five (45) countries, and, hence, any person serving on Panamanian registered vessels having one of the certificates denoted above from any of these forty five (45) countries, can apply for the Panamanian corresponding equivalent certificate

The following is the radio personnel requirement for Panamanian vessels fitted with GMDSS equipment:

For vessels with shore based maintenance, the following Radio Qualified Personnel will be required:

- 1 Two (2) Deck officers both holders of either a General or Restricted* Operator's Certificate.

Or

- 1 One dedicated Radio Officer holder of a General Operator's Certificate.

For vessels with onboard maintenance of the GMDSS equipment, the following Qualified Radio Personnel will be required:

- 1 One (1) dedicated Radio Officer holder of a First or Second Class Radio Electronic Certificate, and One (1) Deck Officer holder of either a General or Restricted* Operator's Certificate.

Or

- 1 One (1) holder of a First or Second Class Radio Electronic Certificate (Not designated as the Radio Officer), and two (2) watchstanding Deck Officers holders of General or Restricted* Operator's Certificate.

If a watchstanding deck officer is to operate the GMDSS equipment then he must have any one of the above certificates, whether or not the ship carries an exclusive radio officer.

**Restricted: This certificate will only be accepted when the vessel is within Sea Area 1 (Within range of shore based VHF Coast Stations, 20-30 miles).*

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

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