



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

Directorate General of Merchant Marine

Office of the Department Merchant Marine Circular No.106

Of Maritime Safety

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

Subject: Amendments to MMC No. 104 GMDSS (Radio Qualified Personnel on board Panamanian Flag Vessels Policy)

It is understood that this Administration's policy regarding GMDSS operation and maintenance onboard Panamanian vessels has been outlined by MMC No. 104.

However, due to the lack of properly trained personnel worldwide, Panama Maritime Authority will grant a grace period of three years from February 1, 1999. Therefore in the meantime, this Administration will accept the following arrangements:

VESSEL'S GRT	NUMBER OF GMDSS CERTIFIED OFFICER
MORE THAN 1600 GRT WORLDWIDE TRADING	TWO WATCHSTANDING DECK OFFICERS OR ONE DEDICATED RADIO OFFICER
BETWEEN 1599 AND 300 GRT WORLDWIDE TRADING ¹	TWO WATCHSTANDING DECK OFFICERS
MORE THAN 1600 GRT TRADING LESS THAN 600 NM ²	TWO WATCHSTANDING DECK OFFICERS OR ONE DEDICATED RADIO OFFICER
BETWEEN 1599 AND 500 GRT TRADING LESS THAN 600 NM ²	TWO WATCHSTANDING DECK OFFICERS
BETWEEN 499 AND 300 GRT TRADING LESS THAN 600 NM ²	ONE WATCHSTANDING DECK OFFICER

It is understood that any Minimum Safe Manning Certificate that has the following provision shall be modified by this circular until February 2, 2002:

"When a class Society certifies the vessel for GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress and Safety System), then the Radio Officer can be dispensed with, but all Watchstanding Deck Officer are to have the Radiotelephone Operator certificate, general or Restricted. However, until the full

implementation of the GMDSS in 1999, this Administration will accept that only two(2) Watchstanding Deck Officer will be required to have the GMDSS Radiotelephone Operator Certificate, General or Restricted."

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