

Panama Maritime Authority
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
International Representative Office, New York

Merchant Marine Circular No. 118

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

Subject: Amendments to MMC No. 106 GMDSS (Radio Qualified Personnel on board Panamanian Flag Vessels) update policy

This notice will supersede Merchant Marine Circular No. 106 of January 1999.

The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to remind shipowners/operators and masters of Panamanian registered ships of the full implementation of Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). This requirement became mandatory for ships of over 300 GT on February 1, 1999. It also introduces revision of MMC No.106 and the new policy of this Administration concerning Radio Qualified Personnel on board Panamanian Flag Vessels.

After consultation with various organizations of the maritime industry, beginning February 1, 2002, this Administration will require that GMDSS vessels carry a minimum of two (2) Watchstanding Deck Officers or one (1) Dedicated Radio Officer with the GMDSS Radio Operator Certificate General or Restricted, depending upon the ship's intended Sea Area of operation.

January 2002

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

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