

Merchant Marine Circular No. 130

To:	Shipowners/Operators, Charterers, Masters, Recognized Security Organizations and Marine Inspectors of Panamanian flagged Vessels
Subject:	MARITIME LABOR INSPECTIONS
References:	Law No. 2, Decree Law No. 7, Decree Law No. 8 Resolution J.D. 022, Resolution J.D. 007, Resolution J.D. 009

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to announce new regulations applicable to Maritime Labor Inspections on board Panamanian flagged ships.
2. According to Chapter Ten "Inspections" of Law Decree No. 8 of 1998 "whereby work at sea and in navigable waterways is regulated" on board Panamanian-registered vessels, the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) through the Directorate General of Seafarers has approved the regulations related to Maritime Labor Inspections by Resolution J. D 022 of August 14, 2003.
3. Effective on 5 September 2003, most of the Panamanian-registered vessels engaged in domestic and international trade will be subject to maritime labor inspections, to ensure compliance with the national and international standards which were ratified by Panama, regarding the implementation of regulations about living and working conditions, crew accommodations, certifications and manning.
4. The owner(s)/operator(s), charterers and others responsible for the operation of one or more vessels sailing under the Panamanian flag, as well as their agents or representatives, and the Master of such vessels shall be under obligation to admit the Inspection personnel on board, cooperate with them and allow them to carry out the inspection.

October 2003

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