



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
Segumar Panama

Merchant Marine Circular No. 157

**To: Owners/Operators, Recognized Organizations, Masters
and legal Representative**

Subject: Control of Anti-Fouling System on Ships

**Reference: Decree law No. 7, 1998
Law No. 30 of July 11, 2007**

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to officially communicate that the Republic of Panama, has deposited at IMO, the ratification of the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling System on Ships (AFS Convention) in on September 2007. Therefore the Convention will enter into force 17 September 2008.
2. Article 10 of the AFS 2001 Convention, prescribes that vessels shall be surveyed and certified in accordance with the regulations of annex 4 of the Convention.
3. Prior to the Convention entering into force, all Recognized Organization are authorized, on an interim basis, to issue AFS Statements of Compliance, to document compliance with the convention.
4. During these the Panama Maritime Authority request all Recognized Organization to apply to the General Directorate of Merchant Marine, for the permanent authorization.
5. The application must be submitted through the Legal Representative before May 04, 2008 and must include the following documentation:
 1. Application Document
 2. Manual of Procedures and/ or instructions to the surveyors
 3. Recognized Organizations requirements and training for each surveyor to be approved to carry out surveys according AFS Convention, together with the list of surveyors actually approved and their qualifications.
 4. *MODEL FORM OF INTERNATIONAL ANTI-FOULING SYSTEM CERTIFICATE, MODEL FORM OF RECORD OF ANTI-FOULING SYSTEMS,*
 5. Any other information regarding procedures and the quality of the survey and certification process, not mentioned in the above requirements.

6. Upon approval of the application by the General Directorate of Merchant Marine, the authorized RO shall convert the Statement of Compliance into International Certificates and issue Certificates to new ships on or after the entry into force date.
7. In case were those ROs application to issue AFS Certificate are denied, then shipowners/operators will be required to contact an approved RO.

March 2008

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

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