PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
Directorate General of Seafarers

Merchant Marine Circular No. 163

To: **Owners/Operators of Panamanian Ships, Recognized Organizations and Masters, Panama Flag Inspectors and Port State Control Authorities**

Subject: **New format for Seafarers License**

1. We are pleased to inform the international maritime community that the Panama Maritime Authority, with the aim of increasing the level of security of the seafarers title certificates of the Republic of Panama, is in the process of implementation from July 06 2008, of a new format for Seafarers licenses and certificates of title to incorporate elements that contribute to ensuring the certainty of its authenticity as well as those established by internationally standards accepted for security of passports and travel documents.

2. It is important to bear in mind that there will be a period of time in which both new documents as well as those issued with the previous format will be valid; it means that the documents issued with the previous format will be valid until their expiry date.

3. Therefore we are kindly requesting to the different Port State Control Authorities and Inspectors to be informed on these new provisions to avoid inconveniences to the Panamanian seafarers while transiting in your ports, and to understand that the new implementation shall not constitute a reason for detention or unnecessary delays for Panamanian vessels. Further details on the new format of the new documents can be obtained by the seafarers on the following web page: http://www.amp.gob.pa.

4. Attached to this circular you will find an example of the new format of seafarer's licenses and certificates.

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