



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
SEGUMAR Panama**

Merchant Marine Circular No. 179

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Recognized Organizations, Masters, and Legal Representatives

Subject: Recognized Organizations Authorized to issue AFS Statement of Compliance

References: International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001

1. Merchant Marine Circular No. 157 communicated 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) which prescribes that vessels shall be surveyed and certificated in accordance with the regulations of annex 4 of the Convention.
2. The previously mentioned Merchant Marine Circular authorized all Recognized Organizations, duly approved by the Republic of Panama, to issue the *International Anti-fouling System Certificate* required by the AFS Convention for a 6 months period. It also encourages Recognized Organizations to apply to the General Directorate of Merchant Marine, for the permanent authorization.
3. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to communicate that the Recognized Organizations which are authorized to issue the permanent Anti-Fouling System Certificate to Panamanian flag vessels, as of August 01, 2008, are:
 - 3.1 AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING
 - 3.2 BUREAU VERITAS
 - 3.3 CHINA CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY
 - 3.4 CHINA CORPORATION REGISTER OF SHIPPING
 - 3.5 DET NORSKE VERITAS
 - 3.6 GERMANISCHER LLOYD

- 3.7 GLOBAL SHIPPING CLASS INC.
- 3.8 HELLENIC REGISTER OF SHIPPING
- 3.9 INTERMARITIME CERTIFICATION SERVICES
- 3.10 INTERNATIONAL NAVAL SURVEY
- 3.11 INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF SHIPPING
- 3.12 ISTHMUS BUREAU OF SHIPPING
- 3.13 KOREAN REGISTER OF SHIPPING
- 3.14 NATIONAL SHIPPING ADJUSTERS
- 3.15 NIPPONG KAIJI KYOKAI
- 3.16 OVERSEAS MARINE CERTIFICATION SERVICES
- 3.17 PANAMA BUREAU OF SHIPPING
- 3.18 PANAMA MARITIME DOCUMENTATION SERVICES
- 3.19 PANAMA SHIPPING REGISTRAR
- 3.20 POLSKI REJESTER STATKOW
- 3.21 REGISTRO ITALIANO NAVALE
- 3.22 RUSSIAN REGISTER OF SHIPPING

August, 2008
Revised September, 2009

**Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to:
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority
Phone: (507) 501-5010
Fax: (507) 501-5011**