



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
General Directorate of Seafarers

Merchant Marine Circular No. 182

To: Companies, Owners/Operators of Panamanian Flagged Vessels

Subject: Appropriate Certificate

References: International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 78/95, Rule I/4
Decree Law 8 of February 26, 1998
Resolution J.D. 009-2001

1. The purpose of this General Directorate of Seafarers Circular is to remind all interested parties that any crewmember who works on board a Panamanian flagged vessel must hold and keep onboard the **Appropriate Certificate** issued or endorsed by the Panama Maritime Authority.
2. An **Appropriate Certificate**, according to International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW'78), as amended, is a "certificate issued and endorsed in accordance with Annex I and entitling the lawful holder thereof to serve in the capacity and perform the functions involved at the level of responsibility specified therein on a ship of the type, tonnage, power and means of propulsion concerned while engaged on the particular voyage concerned".
3. That pursuant to the provisions of Resolution J.D. N°.009-2001 and Rule I/4 of STCW '78, as amended, the crewmembers must possess an adequate level of competence to serve onboard Panamanian flagged vessels, according to the type of vessel, navigation area, power and propulsion means stated on the **Appropriate Certificate** issued or endorsed by the Panama Maritime Authority.
4. In order to avoid maritime accidents and detentions by Port State Control inspectors, the Companies, Owners/Operators, Designated Person, and Masters of Panamanian flagged vessels must ensure to hire crewmembers authorized to perform the duties corresponding to the duties described on the **Appropriate Certificate** that has been granted.

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