



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

Merchant Marine Circular No. 192

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian flagged vessels, Recognized Organizations

Subject: “Type Approvals” and “to the satisfaction of the Administration” criteria

References: Resolution N°. 106-34-DGMM of August 22, 2008

1. The purpose of this Circular is to issue guidance for “Type approvals” and “to the satisfaction of the Administration” criteria, in accordance with Resolution No. 10634-DGMM of August 22, 2008.

TYPE APPROVALS

2. The equipment will be considered of two (2) different types:
 - a) Equipment provided in the specifications of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), in which case there are specifications that have been developed by committees of the IMO. Recognized organizations shall accept for use on ships registered in the Republic of Panama, those equipments adopted under these specifications, which have been approved by maritime authorities and are included in the list of approved equipment.
 - b) Equipment not provided in the specifications issued by the IMO, in cases in which the conventions require that the equipment should be of a type approved, the Republic of Panama, in accordance with the provisions of the conventions, will accept the equipment approved by traditional maritime countries members of the IMO, which have provisions for the approval of certain types of equipments and organizations must accept the equipment so approved.
3. In cases not covered under the previously mentioned conditions, the Recognized Organizations should, acting on behalf of the Republic of Panama, will accept national or international standards, or the standards developed by experienced organizations, for equipment or materials on board Panamanians vessels.

4. In such circumstances, the Recognized Organizations must submit, to the General Directorate of Merchant Marine, when such approvals are required, and the list of equipments that have been approved.

“To the satisfaction of the Administration” Criteria:

5. The General Directorate of Merchant Marine will apply, in all cases in which the conventions ratified by the Republic of Panama mention the phrase "to the satisfaction of the Administration", the rules or interpretations made by national or international standards, or standards developed by experienced organizations for these cases, such as unified interpretations of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS).
6. The General Directorate of Merchant Marine, of the Panama Maritime Authority, may establish their own interpretations to provide satisfactory ways of complying with certain provisions of the Conventions; in which case, it is applied exclusively to all ships of the National Merchant Marine.

November 19, 2008

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