



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
General Directorate of Seafarers**

**Merchant Marine Circular No. 196
Seafarers Circular No. 031-2008**

**To: Regional Offices, Consulates, Manning Agencies, Nautical Inspectors,
Shipping Companies, Operators and Shipowners.**

**Subject: STCW Required Training and Certification for Ship Security Officers
(SSOs)**

References: Resolution ADM. N° 084-2008 of the Panama Maritime Authority

1. The purpose of this Circular is to inform all parties involved, that according to the dispositions established in the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978, as amended (STCW Convention) and amendments of 2006, which were adopted by Resolutions MSC.203(81) and MSC.209(81), and approved by Panama through Resolution ADM. N° 084-2008 “**Whereby the ship security officer certificate is implemented**”, and entered into force on **September 1, 2008**.
2. For your reference, this Resolution is published in www.amp.gob.pa, in the General Directorate of Seafarers section.
3. In relation to this matter, this Administration issued the following guidelines:
 - 3.1 The Resolution is applicable to seafarers who render services on board of the following types of vessels, and which are engaged on international voyages:
 - a) Passenger ships, including passenger crafts.
 - b) Cargo Ships, including Cargo Crafts of 500 Gross Tonnage and above.
 - c) Mobile Offshore Drilling Units.
 - 3.2 Every application for a SSOs Certificate or Endorsement shall include the Following (Administrative Documents):
 - a) Application form.
 - b) Four (4) color photos 3x3 cm.
 - c) Copy of passport and in the case of Panamanian citizens’ copy of the I.D. Card.
 - d) Medical Fitness Certificate (Regulation I/9).

3.3 In order to obtain the **Ship Security Officer Certificate**, the applicant shall hold:

- a) Documents mentioned in section 3.2.
- b) Valid Appropriate Certificate, issued by the General Directorate of Seafarers, of the Officer who render services in the navigation bridge or the engine room, according to provisions of the STCW Convention.
- c) To perform an approved seagoing service of not less than twelve (12) months in the last five (5) years, carrying out chief engineer or bridge officer duties onboard.
- d) Valid Training Course to obtain the Ship Security Officer Certificate, at a Training Center recognized by the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA).

3.4 The **Application for SSO Certificate Endorsement** (Regulation I/10), shall present the following documents:

- a) Documents mentioned in section 3.2.
- b) Original and Copy of the Certificate (of Home Country License) in accordance with the STCW Convention (Regulation I/12) from the applicant's country.

3.5 To **renew the Ship Security Officer Certificate** the applicant shall:

- a) Documents mentioned in section 3.2.
- b) To perform an approved seagoing service of not less that twelve (12) month in the last five (5) years, carrying out chief engineer or bridge officer duties onboard.
- c) Valid Training Course to obtain the Ship Security Officer Certificate, at a Training Center acknowledged by the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA).

3.6 Applications for **Certificate of Course for Ship Security Officer endorsement** requires:

- a) Documents mentioned in section 3.2.
- b) Original and Copy of the Certificate of Course for Ship Security Officer.

4. From the date of entry into force of this Circular, all Ship Security Officer onboard Panamanian flagged vessels must hold the previously mentioned Course, duly endorsed by the Merchant Marine Consulates, of the Panama Maritime Authority.
5. The Certificates of the Ship Security Officer issued in accordance with ISPS Code and SOLAS amendments, prior to the entry into force of STCW Regulation VI/5, shall remain valid and shall be deemed to be in compliance with this regulation.
6. For those already qualified as Ship Security Officer, transitional provisions have been approved in the amendments and allow for continued recognition of personnel who hold a document of qualifications as **Ship Security Officers** before the entry into force of this regulation, until **July 1, 2009**.

7. All personnel designated to serve as SSO on board Panamanian flagged vessels shall hold a Panamanian Certificate of Ship Security Officer by 1 July 2009. However, only during this time of transition those seafarers already qualified as Ship Security Officer, shall hold the respective title endorsement or Certificate of Course for Ship Security Officer endorsed by the nearest Panamanian Consulate.

Inquiries concerning and questions the subject of these Circular or any request should be directed to:

Panama Maritime Authority

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