



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

**Merchant Marine Circular No. 200**

---

**To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian flagged vessels, Recognized Organizations, Masters and Annual Safety Inspectors.**

---

**Subject: Revision of the IBC/BCH Code and MARPOL 73/78 Annex II**

---

**References: MSC 219(82)  
MEPC 166(56)  
Resolution 106-OMI-54-DGMM of October 9, 2008**

---

The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform Owners/Operators, Recognized Organizations, Masters and Annual Safety Inspectors the applicable procedures regarding the amendments to the IBC Code, BCH Code and MARPOL 73/78 Annex II, which apply to chemical tankers and ships carrying noxious liquid substances in bulk, and entered into force on 01 January 2009.

In the current revision, cargo which is not included in the cargo list of the last revision is being included, but the name and application requirement of some of the cargo which was already registered is also being modified. As a result, this change may require the re-issuance of the IBC/BCH Code Certificate.

This Administration instructs all Recognized Organizations, approved by the Republic of Panama to issue the IBC/BCH Code certificate, to investigate which one of the certificates issued by them, requires to be re-issued and to coordinate with the operators of the vessels which needs the re-issuance of the certificate.

If a certificate is not required to be re-issued, the Recognized Organization that issued the certificate shall issue a statement indicating that the Certificate is still valid, due to the fact that the revision of the IBC/BCH code and Marpol 73/78 Annex II is not affecting the current cargo list attached to the certificate.

The previously mentioned statement shall be placed onboard together with the certificate in order to be useful during PSC inspections and other surveys.

In the case of certificates which are not required to be re-issued, the new revision number will be reflected in the certificate at the next issuance of the certificate.

**February, 2009**

**Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to:**

Panama Maritime Authority

Tel: (507) 501-5010

General Directorate of Merchant Marine

Fax: (507)501-5011

P.O. Box 5245 Panama 5

Republic of Panama