



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-217

To: Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (ROs).

Subject: Ship to Ship Transfer (STS) Operations Plan

Reference: Resolution MEPC 186(59), adopted by Resolution 106-OMI-87-DGMM

1. The purpose of this circular is to inform about the Resolution MEPC 186(59), which will be coming into force on 1st January 2011, and amends MARPOL 73/78 Annex I, adding a new chapter 8. The regulation 41 of this new chapter states that all oil tankers involved in STS operations shall carry on board a Plan prescribing how to conduct STS operations (STS operations Plan) not later than the date of the first annual, intermediate or renewal survey of the ship to be carried out on or after 1 January 2011. Each oil tanker's STS operations Plan shall be approved by the Administration.
2. This Administration authorizes all Recognized Organizations (RO's) duly approved to issue the certificate related to Annex I of Marpol Convention, on behalf of the Republic of Panama, to carry out the revision of the STS operations Plan as well as its corresponding approvals.
3. Consequently, all Recognized Organizations (RO's), at the moment to carry out the verification of the STS operations Plan, shall make sure that such Plan is developed taking into account the information contained in the best practice guidelines for STS operations identified by the Organizations (IMO's "Manual on Oil Pollution, Section I, Prevention" as amended, and the ICS and OCIMF "Ship-to-ship Transfer Guide, Petroleum", fourth edition, 2005).

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