



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-237

To: Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates, Recognized Organizations (RO), Regional Offices, Manning Agencies, Nautical Inspectors, Shipping Companies, Recognized Trainings Organizations

Subject: Panamanian Shipowners Association / Maritime Chamber of Panama

Reference: Law 57 of August 6, 2008, Article 159

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform Panamanian Flagged vessels that the Board of Directors of the Maritime Chamber of Panama has recently approved international shipowners, operators and managers of ships and other global maritime services for membership in its International Chapter.
2. The Maritime Chamber of Panama is the voice of the Panamanian Maritime Cluster; from shipyards, ports, ancillary services, bunkering, shipping agents, chandlers to, of course, the local and international shipowners, with over 8,000 Panamanian registered ships worldwide. The Chamber also serves as the link with the Canal authorities; the Maritime Authority, managers of the Shipping Registry and the Directorates of Merchant Marine, Ports and Seafarers; the Authority of Aquatic Resources, and to the local and international bodies and agencies, such as Customs and Immigration.
3. The Panama Maritime Chamber, along with representatives from the Ministry of Labour, Maritime Authority and seafarers organizations, actively participates in all tripartite discussions regarding the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC). The Chamber, together with the Administration and the other Social Partners, works towards the appropriate and effective preparation of the operational and legal framework for implementation of the Convention requirements. As part of the Panamanian Tripartite Committee, the Chamber participates in all meetings taking place in the Republic of Panama, in other countries and in the International Labour Organization (ILO) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
4. Membership in the Chamber's International Chapter provides, among many others, the following benefits:

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Representation:

The Chamber's working committees are responsible for preparing plans, projects and new legislation in support of its membership and the maritime cluster in general. They also work in liaison with Government of Panama entities (the Canal, the Registry, etc.) to solve the day-to-day problems, which might arise. The Chamber works for a more competitive and fair business environment on behalf of its Membership.

Information:

The Chamber maintains a Web page with pertinent information and issues regular publications and information briefs on any subjects that might arise. The Chamber maintains a constant flow of information that benefits its membership.

Presence:

The Chamber's international presence is accomplished through its participation in exhibitions and conferences at regional and international levels, most of them with participation of the Panamanian authorities. The Chamber offers its members the opportunity to attend and participate in local and international trade missions , as well as training and commercial events, while networking with local and international "movers and shakers".

5. Interested shipowners, shipping companies and other maritime managers are eligible for memberships and are invited to visit the Web page of the Panama Maritime Chamber www.camaramaritima.com and to apply for membership. The Panama Maritime Chamber may be contacted at international@camaramaritima.com

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