# Merchant Marine Circular

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

**MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC- 302**

**To:** Ship-owners/Operator, Recognized Organizations, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flag Vessels, Panama Merchant Marine Consulates, Shipyards and Company Security Officers.

**Subject:** Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, amended (MLC). Exemption Certificate and Dispensation Letter. Title 3, Regulation 3.1, Standard A3.1 and Part B of the Code, Regarding accommodation and Recreational Facilities.

**Reference:** Law No. 2 of January 6, 2009.

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**1.** That the Republic of Panama ratified the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC), by Law No. 2 of January 6th of 2009, duly regulated through Executive Decree No. 86 of February, 2013.

**2.** That the MLC establishes on its Article VI "The Regulations and the provisions of Part A of the Code are mandatory. The provisions of Part B of the Code are not mandatory".

**3.** That due to the large quantity of Panama flagged vessels whose construction was terminated, or whose keel was laid on a date after August 20th of 2013, and that they do not comply with the Standards and/or Guidelines of Title 3, Regulation 3.1, it becomes necessary that this Administration communicates to users of the Ship Registry, that while the National Legislation incorporates Standards and Guidelines, the Flag´s requirements, regarding Standards, which are of mandatory compliance, cannot be the same as the requirements regarding Guidelines, which are not mandatory, relating to ship construction and equipment, therefore, this Administration takes the following measures, destined to provide our users with a service in accordance to the demands of the MLC, 2006, as follows:

**3.1** Whenever a ship does not comply with the regulations of Law Decree No. 86 of 2013, on Title IV Accommodation, Recreational Facilities, Food and Catering-Chapter I Accommodation and Recreational Facilities (MLC, Title 3, Regulation 3.1, Standard A3.1, Part A in the MLC Code), it must apply for an exemption certificate. To obtain the exemption certificate place your request through the new platform SEGUMAR 2.0.

**3.2** Whenever a ship does not comply with the regulations of Law Decree No. 86 of 2013, on Title Accommodation, Recreational Facilities, Food and Catering-Chapter I Accommodation and Recreational Facilities (MLC, Title 3, Guidelines, Part B in the MLC Code), it must request a dispensation letter, by sending an e-mail to mlc@segumar.com/ mlcassist@segumar.com explaining the reasons and attaching a copy of the vessel´s plan. This letter will be issued without any cost, by the Segumar Technical Office – Panama or the International Segumar Office of your convenience.

**3.3** In both cases should be send the patent or navigation statutory certificate, the maritime labour certificate (if applicable), and the two updated financial securities.

**3.4** For the exemption certificate need send the official receipt of payment.

**3.5** If the vessel is under construction, the request must be made by the shipyard or the Class/ Recognized Organization and including their comments.

**4.** The number of the exemption certificate will be included in the DMLC Part I.

The dispensation letter, must be attached to the Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance, and to the Maritime Labour Certificate, and must be available to the competent authorities.

**5.** If the vessel changes its name, ship-owner, recognized organization, Manager Company, GT or others, the exemption certificate will be invalid and must begin the entire process, including the payment for 300.00 Dollars indicated in Circular MMC-162.

**6.** The MLC regulates the accommodations and recreational facilities of the seafarers, does not regulates the accommodation and recreational facilities for passengers.

**7.** The vessels constructed before the entry into force the MLC not subject to the requirements of the construction and equipment.

The word equipment covers fixtures and similar articles to which it would be difficult to make alterations to bring them into line with Convention.

All other requirements in the MLC, 2006, including those in Standard A3.1 that are not related to construction and equipment, will still apply even to ships constructed before the MLC, 2006, entered into force for the flag State.

**8.** This Administration will evaluate the new designs of accommodations and recreational facilities of a novel kind to the MLC.

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***August, 2026 -*** *Modified Paragraph 3. Modified Paragraph 4 and new Paragraphs 7 and 8.*
***December 2021,*** *link forms is added*
***August 2020-*** *Inclusion of the new Paragraphs 7 and 8*
***June 2020*** *- Included two Points in the Paragraph 3 and a new Paragraph 6.*
***October 2019*** *- Included a new Paragraph 5.*
***September, 2014.***

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Circular or any other request should be forward to:


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