



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

**Merchant Marine Circular No. 197**

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

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**Subject: Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT).**

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**References: SOLAS Convention, Chapter V, Reg. 19-1  
Resolution No. 106-35-DGMM of September 9, 2008**

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1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to establish additional guidelines on regards to the Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) certification process.
2. Applicable vessels are required to be compliant with the LRIT requirements no later than the first radio survey after 01 January 2009. Our merchant Marine Circular No. 195 gives the procedures for the shipborne LRIT Equipment testing, and request operators to ensure timely compliance.
3. Taking into consideration that radio equipment onboard of some Panamanian flagged vessels may not conform to the LRIT Performance Standards, and that some vessels can confront some delays in order to carry out satisfactory the conformance test, this Administration can, in a case by case basis, grant authorizations in the following way:
  - 3.1. In those cases where the vessel is undergoing the radio survey, does not have onboard a Conformance Test Certificate, but the Recognized Organization confirms that there is evidence that the Recognized ASP has initiated the testing, the Recognized Organization could issue a Conditional Safety Equipment Certificate valid for three months, without previous authorization from the Segumar Panama Office; but must submit, without delay, a copy of the Conditional Certificate together with the supporting documentation to Segumar's Panama Office..
  - 3.2. In cases where the vessel has the radio survey, and already complete the conformance test, but the equipment onboard does not comply with the LRIT performance standards, this Administration shall grant an authorization to the

Recognized Organization to issue a Conditional Safety Equipment Certificate valid for three months, this will allow the vessel more time to obtain the new equipment. The request to issue conditional certificates shall be supported with evidence that the vessel has already requested the new equipment.

**January 2009**

**Revised on August, 2009** (Changes to paragraph 3.1)

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