

# Merchant Marine Circular

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

## MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-331

- To:** Parties, Administrations, Port State Control Authorities, Ship-owners / Operators, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Masters, Seafarers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, authorized Maritime Training Centers, authorized medical practitioners (MD), Merchant Marine Privative Consulates, Inspectorates Offices, Auxiliary Registry Offices, Authorized Offices, Brokers, Regional Documentation Offices of the Panama Maritime Authority and users of the Panama Ship Registry.
- Subject:** Original forms of certificates and technical documentation for seafarers approved by the Panama Maritime Authority.
- Reference:** 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, Resolution J.D. No. 076-2020 of October 8, 2020 and its modifications, Resolution J.D. No. 026-2022 of June 14, 2022, and Resolution ADM No. 165-2020 of November 11, 2020. Circular DGGM-007 (**Only as recommendation**).

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1.** The purpose of this Circular is to communicate to the users of the Panamanian Registry, the original forms of certificates and technical documentation for seafarers approved by the Panama Maritime Authority.

### 2. Scope

- 2.1.** This Merchant Marine Circular applies to seafarers serving on seagoing ships registered under the Panamanian flag; ship-owners, operators and companies of Panamanian flag ships, Merchant Marine Privative Consulates, Inspectorates Offices, Auxiliary Registry Offices, broker or any office authorized to carry out applications of technical documentation for seafarers by the Panama Maritime Authority, Regional Documentation Offices, and to all interested parties, under the provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended, and its STCW Code and national regulations.



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3. The Panama Maritime Authority issues the certificates and technical documentation for seafarers in original form, either in security paper form or in electronic form, as the case may be, and in accordance with the provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended and national regulations.
4. The Panama Maritime Authority has been issuing certificates and technical documentation for seafarers in electronic form since December 28, 2020, for the following documents: Processing Certificate of License, Processing Certificate of Endorsement, Certificate of Proficiency, Endorsement of Certificate of Proficiency and Course Endorsement.

Effective from **April 1, 2026**, Certificates of Competency and Endorsement of Certificates of Competency will be issued in electronic form, and will no longer be issued in security paper forms for these specific cases.

5. The original forms of certificates and technical documentation for seafarers approved in **electronic form**, with the specifications detailed below:

**5.1. Processing Certificate of License ([Annex No. 1](#)):**

- 5.1.1. For Ratings Personnel on seagoing ships (National Regulations).
- 5.1.2. It may be issued in any paper size.
- 5.1.3. Integrated Quick Response (QR Code), centered at the bottom.
- 5.1.4. The National Coat of Arms of the Republic of Panama in the upper right corner.
- 5.1.5. Flag of the Republic of Panama in the upper left corner.
- 5.1.6. Document number in the upper right border with the **prefixed "E"**.
- 5.1.7. Processing Number (CT) in the upper left border.
- 5.1.8. Watermark logo of the Panama Maritime Authority at the background of the document.

**5.2. Processing Certificate of Endorsement ([Annex No. 2](#)):**

- 5.2.1. For Masters and Officers on seagoing ships (Regulation I/10).
- 5.2.2. It may be issued in any paper size.
- 5.2.3. Integrated Quick Response (QR Code), centered at the bottom.
- 5.2.4. The National Coat of Arms of the Republic of Panama in the upper right corner.
- 5.2.5. Flag of the Republic of Panama in the upper left corner.
- 5.2.6. Document number in the upper right border with the **prefixed "E"**.



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- 5.2.7. Processing Number (CT) in the upper left border.
- 5.2.8. Watermark logo of the Panama Maritime Authority at the background of the document.
- 5.3. **Certificate of Proficiency ([Annex No. 3](#)):**
  - 5.3.1. It may be issued in any paper size.
  - 5.3.2. Integrated Quick Response (QR Code), centered at the bottom.
  - 5.3.3. The National Coat of Arms of the Republic of Panama in the upper right corner.
  - 5.3.4. Flag of the Republic of Panama in the upper left corner.
  - 5.3.5. Document number centered at the top with the **prefixed "E"**.
  - 5.3.6. Watermark logo of the Panama Maritime Authority at the background of the document.
- 5.4. **Endorsement of Certificate of Proficiency ([Annex No. 4](#)):**
  - 5.4.1. For Masters and Officers on seagoing ships (Regulation I/10).
  - 5.4.2. It may be issued in any paper size.
  - 5.4.3. Integrated Quick Response (QR Code), centered at the bottom.
  - 5.4.4. The National Coat of Arms of the Republic of Panama in the upper right corner.
  - 5.4.5. Flag of the Republic of Panama in the upper left corner.
  - 5.4.6. Document number centered at the top with the **prefixed "E"**.
  - 5.4.7. Watermark logo of the Panama Maritime Authority at the background of the document.
- 5.5. **Course Endorsement ([Annex No. 5](#)):**
  - 5.5.1. It may be issued in any paper size.
  - 5.5.2. Integrated Quick Response (QR Code), centered at the bottom.
  - 5.5.3. The National Coat of Arms of the Republic of Panama in the upper right corner.
  - 5.5.4. Flag of the Republic of Panama in the upper left corner.
  - 5.5.5. Document number centered at the top with the **prefixed "E"**.
  - 5.5.6. Watermark logo of the Panama Maritime Authority at the background of the document.
- 5.6. **Certificate of Competency ([Annex No. 6](#)):**
  - 5.6.1. For Masters and Officers on seagoing ships (Regulation I/2).
  - 5.6.2. It may be issued in any paper size.
  - 5.6.3. Integrated Quick Response (QR Code), centered at the bottom.

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- 5.6.4. The National Coat of Arms of the Republic of Panama in the upper right corner.
  - 5.6.5. Flag of the Republic of Panama in the upper left corner.
  - 5.6.6. Processing Number (CT) in the upper right border.
  - 5.6.7. Document number centered at the top with the **prefixed "E"**.
  - 5.6.8. Certificate Number in the upper left border.
  - 5.6.9. Watermark logo of the Panama Maritime Authority at the background of the document.
- 5.7. **Endorsement of Certificate of Competency ([Annex No. 7](#)):**
- 5.7.1. For Masters and Officers on seagoing ships (Regulation I/10).
  - 5.7.2. It may be issued in any paper size.
  - 5.7.3. Integrated Quick Response (QR Code), centered at the bottom.
  - 5.7.4. The National Coat of Arms of the Republic of Panama in the upper right corner.
  - 5.7.5. Flag of the Republic of Panama in the upper left corner.
  - 5.7.6. Processing Number (CT) in the upper right border.
  - 5.7.7. Document number centered at the top with the **prefixed "E"**.
  - 5.7.8. Endorsement Number in the upper left border.
  - 5.7.9. Watermark logo of the Panama Maritime Authority at the background of the document.
6. The original form of technical documentation for seafarers that the Panama Maritime Authority will continue to issue **in security paper form**, with the specifications detailed below:
- 6.1. **Seaman's Book ([Annex No. 8](#)):**
- 6.1.1. For Masters, Officers and Ratings, on seagoing ships and jurisdictional waters of Panama, have a unique design in blue navy;
  - 6.1.2. The National Coat of Arms of the Republic of Panama printed in golden color;
  - 6.1.3. With dimensions and forms in accordance with the standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO);
  - 6.1.4. With an integrated Quick Response (QR Code).
7. The original forms of certificates and technical documentation for seafarers issued by the Panama Maritime Authority in security paper forms up to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, will remain valid until their expiration date, with the specifications detailed below:



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## 7.1. Certificate of Competency ([Annex No. 9](#)):

- 7.1.1. For Masters and Officers on seagoing ships (Regulation I/2).
- 7.1.2. Issued in security paper form A4 (8,27 x 11,69).
- 7.1.3. Integrated Quick Response (QR Code), centered at the bottom.
- 7.1.4. Logo of the Panama Maritime Authority in the upper left corner.
- 7.1.5. Flag of the Republic of Panama in the upper right corner.
- 7.1.6. Document number in the lower right border.
- 7.1.7. Litmus logo of the Panama Maritime Authority in the lower left border.

## 7.2. Endorsement of Certificate of Competency ([Annex No. 10](#)):

- 7.2.1. For Masters and Officers on seagoing ships (Regulation I/10).
- 7.2.2. Issued in security paper form A4 (8,27 x 11,69).
- 7.2.3. Integrated Quick Response (QR Code), centered at the bottom.
- 7.2.4. Logo of the Panama Maritime Authority in the upper left corner.
- 7.2.5. Flag of the Republic of Panama in the upper right corner.
- 7.2.6. Document number in the lower right border.
- 7.2.7. Litmus logo of the Panama Maritime Authority in the lower left border.

## 8. The procedure for verification the authenticity and validity of the certificates and technical documentation for seafarers issued by the Panama Maritime Authority, may be carried out through the following mechanisms:

- 8.1. Quick Response Code (QR Code);
- 8.2. Online Consultation on the Panama Maritime Authority website using the following links:
  - 8.2.1. [Link 1](#): for certificates with nomenclature "CT, CTB, CTC"; and
  - 8.2.2. [Link 2](#): for certificates and technical documentation for seafarers issued in security paper form and in electronic form, through the Seafarers' Automated Application System (SAA).
- 8.3. Sending an email to the following email addresses:
  - 8.3.1. [verification@amp.gob.pa](mailto:verification@amp.gob.pa)
  - 8.3.2. [certification@amp.gob.pa](mailto:certification@amp.gob.pa)

## 9. Any certificate and technical documentation for seafarers required either by the 1978 Convention, as amended, or by national regulations must be kept available in its original form on board the ship on which the holder is serving, whether in paper form or electronic form, depending on the date of issue. If an electronic form is used, the minimum required data must be accessible as defined by the Panama Maritime Authority, in accordance with the STCW Code, which is necessary to initiate a verification procedure.



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10. The shipowners, operators and crew of the Panama flagged-vessels, who hold and use certificates in electronic form shall ensure that the certificates are managed through the Safety Management System, in accordance with section 11 of the International Safety Management Code (ISM Code).
11. The relevant provision is available at the following link:
  - 11.1. [Resolution ADM No. 165-2020 of November 11, 2020.](#)

**March, 2026** – *The Subject and Reference and the paragraphs # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are modified; paragraphs # 5.1.1, 5.2.1, 5.6, 5.7 and 11.1 are added; paragraph # 12 becomes paragraph # 11.1; and paragraphs # 13, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 13.6, 13.7, 13.8, 13.9, 13.10, 13.11 and 13.12 are deleted.*

**December, 2020** – *Change in Paragraphs # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10; and New Paragraphs # 11, 12 and 13.*

**June, 2019** - *Added links.*

**July, 2017** - *Added Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 10.*

**May, 2016** - *Modified Paragraphs 5, 8 and 9.*

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

Certification Department - General Directorate of Seafarers  
General Directorate of Merchant Marine  
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 5062 / 5325

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Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/>