

# Merchant Marine Circular

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

## MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-385

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

**Subject:** Chief Cook Dispensation Letter – Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC 2006).

**Reference:** Law No. 2 of January 6, 2009 adopted the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 Standards A2.7.3 and A3.2.6, Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended.

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1. The purpose of this circular is to inform all interested parties of the Panamanian Registry about the requirements they must provide “in circumstances of exceptional necessity” to request a dispensation letter of the chief cook taking into consideration the Standards A2.7.3 regarding manning levels and A3.2.6 regarding food and catering of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended:
    - 1.1. A copy of the Maritime Labour Certificate in force,
    - 1.2. A copy of both financial securities (valid)
    - 1.3. Full name, nationality and Panamanian license of the chief cook,
    - 1.4. Full description of the situation and disembarkation date,
    - 1.5. Panamanian license of the crew member or non-qualified cook to whom the dispensation should be issued,
    - 1.6. Training or document evidencing the instruction received by the crew member whom the dispensation is issued.
  2. The MLC dispensation for chief cook applies only for vessel’s with a prescribed manning of ten crew members or more. In case of vessel’s operating with a prescribed manning of less than ten crew members, this Administration have not objection a non-fully qualified cook serve on board.



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3. The Minimum Safe manning certificate will be considered to evaluate the necessity of a dispensation.
4. Requests must be addressed to [mlc@segumar.com](mailto:mlc@segumar.com) or the Segumar Office of your convenience. Dispensation letters have no cost, and it will be issued until the next convenient port of call or a period not exceeding one (1) month.
5. The extensions of the MLC chief cook dispensation letter will be evaluated on case by case basis, depending on the performance of the vessel and the company.

**June, 2021**- Modified Paragraph 4.

**April, 2021** - Modified Paragraph 1 and addition of two new paragraphs (2 and 5).

**July, 2020.**

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

SEGUMAR Panama Technical Office  
Directorate General of Merchant Marine  
Panama Maritime Authority

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