



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
Directorate General of Merchant Marine

*Office of the Department
Of Maritime Safety*

Merchant Marine Circular No.104

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian flag Vessels, Class Societies and Authorized Organizations

Subject: GMDSS Radio Qualified Personnel on board Panamanian Flag Vessels Policy

This Merchant Marine Circular replaces MMC No. 99

The Panama Maritime Authority implementing the requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended in 1995 (STCW 95) and Chapter IV of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS) prescribes the following mandatory minimum requirements.

1. From February 1, 1999 vessel's certified for GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress and Safety System) every watchstanding Deck Officer serving on Panama registered ships must be in possession of an appropriate Panamanian (GMDSS) radio operator's certificate; i.e., Restricted Operator's Certificate (ROC)¹ or General Operator's Certificate (GOC).
 2. In order to ensure that the radio equipment required by Chapter IV of SOLAS, is properly maintained and meets the recommended functional requirements specified in regulation 4, and the recommended performance standards, this administration will require the following maintenance methods on board Panamanian vessels according to the area of navigation:
 1. Duplication of equipment
 2. Shore based maintenance
 3. At-sea electronic maintenance² capability
- On ships engaged on voyages in sea areas A1 and A2, the availability shall be ensured by using one(1) of the above mentioned methods.

¹ Restricted Operator: This certificate will only be accepted when the vessel is within Sea Area 1 (Within range of shore based VHF Coast Stations, 20-30 miles).

Subject :

Radio Personnel Required for
Panamanian Flag GMDSS Ships

NKTECHNICAL INFORMATION

No. : 298

Date : 1 February 1999

To shipowners and shipbuilders concerned,

With regard to radio personnel required for Panamanian Flag GMDSS ships, Merchant Marine Circular (MMC) No.104 and MMC No.106 have been issued by the Panamanian Government. For reference, a copy of each of them is attached hereto.

In accordance with MMC No.104 and MMC No.106, on and after 1 February 1999, all watchstanding deck officers of Panamanian flag GMDSS ships must be in possession either of a General Operator's Certificate (GOC) or of a Restricted Operator's Certificate (ROC), issued by the Panamanian Government. However, the Government will grant a three year grace period from 1 February 1999 to comply with this requirement subject to compliance with the requirement of MMC No.106 (that is materially same as the one shown in NK Technical Information No.237 of 18 December 1997.)

It is strongly recommended that attention should be paid to MMC No.104 and MMC No.106 in connection with radio personnel of Panamanian flag GMDSS ships, and that in order to avoid possible troubles MMC No.104 and MMC No.106 should be attached to the Minimum Safe Manning Certificate of the ships.

The End

Attachment : one copy of each of MMC No.104 and MMC No.106

Department in charge : Material and Equipment Department

Tel : 81-3-5226-2020

Fax : 81-3-5226-2019

ClassNK

NIPPON KAIJI KYOKAI
4-7, KIOI-CHO, CHIYODA-KU,
TOKYO 102-8567, JAPAN.

TELEX: J22975 CLASSNK
2324280 CLASNKJ
CABLE: CLASSNK TOKYO

This "Technical Information" is provided only for the purpose of supplying current information to its readers. Nippon Kaiji Kyokai, its officers, employees and agents or sub-contractors do not warrant the accuracy of the information contained herein and are not liable for any loss, damage or expense sustained whatsoever by any person caused by use of or reliance on this information.

- On ships engaged on voyages in sea areas A3 and A4, the availability shall be ensured by using a combination of at least two (2) of the above mentioned methods.

The person designated to perform At-sea electronic maintenance² capability could be one of the GMDSS operators on board the vessel, and is required to hold an appropriate certificate as referred to in STCW Code B-I/IV, or have equivalent at-sea electronic maintenance qualifications as specified by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Radio Regulations.

January 1999

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any requests should be directed to:
Directorate General of Merchant Marine, New York Office
Department of Maritime Safety
6 West 48th Street, 10 floor
New York, NY 10036,
U.S.A.

phone: ++1 (212) 869-6440
fax: ++1 (212) 575-2285 / 2288
email: ralegria@segumar.com

² At-sea electronic maintenance, requires that all adjustments of radio installation, servicing or maintenance that may affect the proper operation of the GMDSS radio station must be performed by certified GMDSS Radioelectronic (First or Second Class depending on the area of navigation) or under the immediate supervision and responsibility of a qualified GMDSS Radioelectronic Technician. It is understood that the Radioelectronic is going to perform his or her duties exclusively on board the specific ship, and that he or she have been appointed to carry out At-sea maintenance



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
Directorate General of Merchant Marine

*Office of the Department
Of Maritime Safety*

Merchant Marine Circular No.106

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian flag Vessels, Class Societies and Authorized Organizations

Subject: Amendments to MMC No. 104 GMDSS (Radio Qualified Personnel on board Panamanian Flag Vessels Policy)

It is understood that this Administration's policy regarding GMDSS operation and maintenance onboard Panamanian vessels has been outlined by MMC No. 104.

However, due to the lack of properly trained personnel worldwide, Panama Maritime Authority will grant a grace period of three years from February 1, 1999. Therefore in the meantime, this Administration will accept the following arrangements:

VESSEL'S GRT	NUMBER OF GMDSS CERTIFIED OFFICER
MORE THAN 1600 GRT WORLDWIDE TRADING¹	TWO WATCHSTANDING DECK OFFICERS OR ONE DEDICATED RADIO OFFICER
BETWEEN 1599 AND 300 GRT WORLDWIDE TRADING¹	TWO WATCHSTANDING DECK OFFICERS
MORE THAN 1600 GRT TRADING LESS THAN 600 NM²	TWO WATCHSTANDING DECK OFFICERS OR ONE DEDICATED RADIO OFFICER
BETWEEN 1599 AND 500 GRT TRADING LESS THAN 600 NM²	TWO WATCHSTANDING DECK OFFICERS
BETWEEN 499 AND 300 GRT TRADING LESS THAN 600 NM²	ONE WATCHSTANDING DECK OFFICER

It is understood that any Minimum Safe Manning Certificate that has the following provision shall be modified by this circular until February 2, 2002:

¹ WORLD WIDE TRADING AREA

² VOYAGES NOT EXCEEDING 600 NM FROM PORT OF DEPARTURE TO PORT OF ARRIVAL

“When a class Society certifies the vessel for GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress and Safety System), then the Radio Officer can be dispensed with, but all Watchstanding Deck Officer are to have the Radiotelephone Operator certificate, general or Restricted. However, until the full implementation of the GMDSS in 1999, this Administration will accept that only two(2) Watchstanding Deck Officer will be required to have the GMDSS Radiotelephone Operator Certificate, General or Restricted.”

January 1999

**Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any requests should be directed to:
Directorate General of Merchant Marine, New York Office
Department of Maritime Safety
6 West 48th Street, 10 floor
New York, NY 10036,
U.S.A.**

**phone: ++1 (212) 869-6440
fax: ++1 (212) 575-2285 / 2288
email: ralegria@segumar.com**

VOID