

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-404

- To:** Ship-owners/Operators, Vessel Masters, Company Designated Person Ashore (DPA), and Legal Representatives of Panama Flagged Vessels.
- Subject:** Measures adopted to enhance the performance of the Panamanian Merchant Fleet - Pre-arrival checklist for ports under the Port State Control (PSC) supervision of the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Paris MoU, Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and People's Republic of China Maritime Safety Administration (MSA).
- Reference:** Law N°. 7 of October 27, 1977, SOLAS.

This Merchant Marine Circular unifies **MMC-381**, **MMC-393**, **MMC-398**, and **MMC-402**.

1. Purpose:

- 1.1** The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to provide information on the measures implemented to enhance the performance of the Panamanian Merchant Marine Fleet.

2. Scope:

- 2.1** Considering that more than a year has passed since the implementation of measures to strengthen the performance of the Panamanian Merchant Marine Fleet, this General Directorate deems it appropriate to make adjustments that allow for monitoring in line with international guidelines and conventions, and international maritime jurisdiction, with a view to obtaining the best performance from Panamanian-registered vessels before the Competent Authorities in charge of supervision by the Port State Control.

- 3.** For this reason, this Pre-arrival checklist has drawn up ([see ANNEX](#)), for ports under the Port State Control (PSC) supervision of the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Paris MoU, Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and People's Republic of China Maritime Safety Administration (MSA), are prepared to assist Ship-Owners,



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Operators, Technical managers, Designated Persons Ashore (DPA) and vessel Master's to find weak items that can result as deficiencies that may affect the performance of the Panamanian fleet, and to increase the factor of priority in the PSC inspections and the risk of detention.

4. The Pre-arrival checklist must be sent one hundred and twenty hours (120hrs) before the vessel arrives to ports under the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Paris MoU, Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and People's Republic of China Maritime Safety Administration (MSA), to the following email address: prearrival@amp.gob.pa. For voyages with lasts less than 96 hours (96hrs), the Pre-arrival checklist must be sent at least twenty-four hours (24hrs) before arrival at port.
5. The use of this Pre-arrival checklist is compulsory for all the Panamanian vessels and shall be signed by the vessel Masters and/or company Designated Persons Ashore (DPA). The omission of this requirement may lead to administrative sanctions for to the vessel Master, and/or Chief Engineer and/or to the vessel company as well.
6. Taking in consideration the frequency of call to ports by passenger vessel, are exempted to comply with the requirements of the send of the Pre-arrival checklist.
7. If an extraordinariness issues, such as equipment failures or any others situations that cannot be resolve on board of the vessel immediately; Ship-Owners, operators, technical managers, DPA or vessel's Master, shall immediately coordinate the correction action plan, timelines and risk assessments, together with the vessel Recognized Organization (R.O.) and Segumar Offices ([MMN-18/2021](#) - contact points). At the same time, shall also report immediately to the appropriate authorities of the port state ("Maintenance of conditions after survey", SOLAS/Ch.I/Reg.11).

July, 2025 – New.

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

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