



CONSULADO DE PANAMA
Manila, Filipinas

CIRCULAR N° 003/240217

To: All Owners, Operators and/or Manning Agents of Vessels
under the Panamanian Registry

From: Consulate General of the Republic of Panama
Manila, Philippines

Date: February 24, 2017

Subject: **IMO ADVISORY MSC.1/CIRC.1560**

The Consulate General of the Republic of Panama presents its compliments to all Owners, Operators and/or Manning Agents of Vessels under the Panamanian Registry and has the honor to inform them that the Republic of Panama **conforms** with the contents of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) **Advisory MSC.1/Circ.1560** as reiterated in **Note No. TIT-019-2017** of Mr. Jose Andrade, Deputy Chief of the Certification Department of the Panama Maritime Authority. For your reference, please see enclosed documents.

We also take this opportunity to remind all concerned parties that the deadline, **July 1, 2017** is **not an extension** to comply with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code. It is a notice that recognizes that not all seafarers on board that hold a Certificate of Competency or Endorsement, comply to the new regulations. Thus, we encourage the seafarers, ship-owners and operator **to fully comply** as soon as possible.

The Consulate General of the Republic of Panama avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Owners, Operators, and/or Manning Agents of Vessels the assurances of its highest consideration.

Sincerely,

ROLANDO A. GUEVARA ALVARADO
Consul General
Consulate General of the Republic of Panama
Manila, Philippines





Dirección General de la Gente de Mar

Panama, February 15, 2017
Note No. TIT-019-2017

Rolando A. Guevara Alvarado
Ambassador and Consul General
Manila, Philippines

Honorable Ambassador Rolando A. Guevara,

In answer to your Note EMP 084/150217, dated February 15th, 2017, we hereby confirm that the Panama Maritime Authority follows the contents of IMO's Advisory concerning "Recognized Organizations authorized to conduct Safety Management verifications under the ISM Code and are advised that, until July 1st, 2017, if a seafarer's documentation is not in accordance with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code, it would be sufficient to inform to the flag State concerning the need for a seafarer to hold documentation in accordance with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention.

The statement in the paragraph 5 (five) of the Merchant Marine Notice IMO MSC/1 Cir. 1560 means that, the mentioned information shall not be considered as an extension of the expired seafarer's documentation.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Jose Andrade
Deputy Chief of Certification Department





PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

MERCHANT MARINE NOTICE

IMO MSC.1/Circ. 1560

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Albrook, Panama City
Republic of Panama
Tel: (507) 501-5348
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No: MN-01/2017

January 2017

MSC.1/Circ. 1560 - Advice for Parties, Administrations, Port State Control Authorities and Recognized Organizations on actions to be taken in cases where not all seafarers carry certificates and endorsements meeting the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code since January 1 2017

The purpose of this Marine Notice is to communicate the contents of MSC.1/Circ.1560 of December 5 2016, which provides guidance to all Parties, Administrations, Port State Control Authorities and Recognized Organizations, about the measures to be taken in cases where not all seafarers hold Certificates of Competence or Endorsements in accordance with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code effective from January 2017.

MSC.1/Circ.1560 of December 5 2016, indicates that the Parties and Administrations, shall make all efforts possible to guarantee that all seafarers are issued with the necessary and appropriate Certificates of Competence and Endorsements in compliance with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code, bearing in mind that the transitional measures end on January 2017.

However, the International Maritime Organization, recognizes that not all seafarers working on board vessels hold a Certificate of Competence or Endorsement in conformity with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code, and encourages Port State Control Authorities to take into account the facts indicated in this MSC Circular and adopt measures within the procedures established in Article X and Regulation I/4 of the Annex of the STCW Convention as amended.

Based on the above, the International Maritime Organization considers that:

1. In cases on which the seafarers documentation satisfies the prescriptions in force immediately before January 2017 but does not comply with the prescriptions of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the Convention and Code, the Organization recommends that the Port State Control Authorities adopt a pragmatic and practical approach during port state verifications until July 2017, and notify this to ships, seafarers and the respective Administrations.
2. Recognized Organizations authorized to conducting Safety Management Verifications under the ISM Code are advised that, until 1st July 2017, if a seafarer's documentation is not in accordance with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, it would be sufficient to inform to the flag State concerning the need for a seafarer to hold documentation in accordance with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention.

3. Besides RO instructed to not impose an official non-conformity to the vessel/ company for this issue.
4. Recognized Organizations will then inform to the Administration when assessing compliance with the provisions of the ISM Code.
5. This Administration wants to make clear that the above shall not be considered as an extension to comply with the 2010 Manila Amendments to the Convention and Code and urges all seafarers, ship-owners and operators to fully comply with the new Regulations as soon as possible.

January, 2017.