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PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
General Directorate of Seafarers

CIRCULAR
DGGM-028-2014-UCYC

TO: Ship-owners/Operators, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates, Recognized Organizations (OR's), Inspectorates, Regional Documentation Offices, and Authorized Offices.

FROM: 
José Luis Aizpurúa, Msc.
General Director of Seafarers.



SUBJECT: EMERGENCY, SAFETY & SECURITY TRAINING

DATE: October 31, 2014

The purpose of this Circular is to inform all users that the General Directorate of Seafarers, REVOKES AND DECLARES VOID the Circular DGGM-021-2013-UCYC and establish the following:

1. All seafarers employed or engaged aboard a Panamanian Flagged seagoing vessel which is required to comply with the provisions of the ISPS Code on the business of that ship as part of the ship's complement without designated security duties shall, before being assigned to any shipboard duties:
 - a. Receive appropriate approved training in security awareness, IMO Model Course 3.27 (Security Awareness Training for all Seafarers) or similar course as set out in the STCW Table A-VI/6-1
 - b. Apply for Endorsement of said Course/Training (Certificate of Proficiency).
2. Every Seafarer who is designated to perform security duties, including anti-piracy and anti-armed robbery-related activities, shall be required to:
 - a. Receive appropriate approved training in IMO Model Course 3.26 (Security Training for Seafarers with Designated Security Duties) or similar course as set out in the STCW Table A-VI/6-2.
 - b. Apply for Endorsement of said Course/Training (Certificate of Proficiency).
3. Any Officer who has received Ship Security Officer Training may request a Ship Security Officer (SSO) Certificate of Competency (CoC) or Certificate of Endorsement (CoE) upon providing evidence of the following:

- a. Having approved seagoing service of not less than 12 months or appropriate seagoing service and knowledge of ship operations.
 - b. Having a valid Panamanian Officer Certificate of Competency (CoC) or Certificate of Endorsement (CoE).
 - c. Having approved the SSO Training Course, IMO Model Course 3.19 or similar which covers the requirements established in STCW Section A-VI/5.
 - d. Apply for Endorsement of said Course/Training (Certificate of Proficiency) when applying for SSO CoC.
4. Seafarers who comply with Item 2 are exempt of complying with Item 1; Officers who comply with Item 3 are exempt of complying with Items 1 and 2.

All officers must receive appropriate approved training as established on point 2 or 3; and rating personnel must receive appropriate approved training as established on point 1 or 2 of this circular.

5. Shipowners/Operators are required to man their vessels with competent personnel who comply with the regulations of CHAPTER VI, Regulation VI/5 and VI/6, Section A-VI/5 and A-VI/6 of the STCW'78, as amended. Said crew shall be in possession of the appropriate Certificates of Proficiency and Certificates of Competency.
6. The administration informs to all seafarers that they may start applying now for the new Course Endorsements and Certificates of Competency.
7. Taking in consideration the recommendations done by the Sub-committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping of the International Maritime Organization, on those cases that the seafarer's certification is not in accordance with Regulation VI/& of the STCW'78 Convention, as amended and paragraphs 4 and 6 with Section A-VI/6 of the STCW Code, this Maritime Administration will accept instead, the compliance of Section 13 of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS Code), until July 1st, 2015.
8. This Administration informs to Seafarers that the requirements listed in this Circular, will be mandatory from July 1st, 2015.