



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
**MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-342**

PanCanal Building  
Albrook, Panama City  
Republic of Panama  
Tel: (507) 501-5352  
[mmc@amp.gob.pa](mailto:mmc@amp.gob.pa)

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

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**Subject: Implementation of IMO Resolution MEPC.287(71), by which the Resolution A.1088(28) is superseded - (BWMC)**

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**Reference: Resolution MEPC.287(71) adopted on 7 July 2017 – Implementation of the BWM Convention, which supersedes the Resolution A.1088 (28) Adopted on 04 December 2013 International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004.**

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1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to provide instructions related to IMO Assembly resolution A.1088(28), adopted by the Republic of Panama through a declaration annexed to the accession instrument to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004; which has been superseded by the Resolution MEPC.287(71) of 7 July 2017.
2. This Administration has adopted IMO Resolution A.1088(28) of 4 December 2013, in order to support a phased implementation and ensure a smooth transition to the D-2 performance standard of the Convention between 2017 and 2022, schedule that has been extended up to 2024 as per the draft amended regulation B-3.
3. In accordance with IMO Resolution A.1088(28), the vessel is not required to comply with regulation D-2 until the first renewal survey of its International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (IOPP), following the date of entry into force of the BWM Convention on 8 September 2017; now as per the Resolution MEPC.287(71) the Parties should implement the amended regulation B-3 in immediately after the entry into force of the Convention, details of the draft amended B-3 regulation have been posted in our MMC.345.
4. The Republic of Panama notes that neither the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL Convention), nor the Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) prevent renewal inspections in advance.
5. Bering the above in mind, this Administration will authorize, on a case by case basis, the de-harmonization of the IOPP Certificate until the date of entry into force of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004.
6. For the purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular, “case-by-case” means that authorizations will be granted at owner’s request.

Prepared by: Lawyer	<i>Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief</i>	<i>Aproved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i>
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7. Requests should be sent to [authorizations@segumar.com](mailto:authorizations@segumar.com) in Panama or through any of the SEGUMAR offices, together with the follow requirements:
  - Class Status Report Copy.
  - Confirmation from the RO, providing proposed date and place to carry out in advance the IOPP renewal survey.
8. Advance renewal inspection of the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate can be conducted afloat provided that all the applicable requirements of the renewal survey are complied with.
9. An authorization request will not be required when the operator decides to renew in advance all statutory certificates.
10. Considering that as per the Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), a flexible system concerning the frequency and the period of validity of certificates, subject to the minimum pattern of surveys has to be maintained; this Administration has no objection on the re-harmonization of the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (IOPP) for Panama flagged vessels, provided that the surveys credited for annual/intermediate endorsement or revalidation of certificate has been deem as accepted by the correspondent Recognized Organization according their internal procedures and/or instructions to do so, and provided that surveys performed are in compliance with the scope of survey that will be credited for.
11. Authorization on a case by case basis for the re-harmonization of IOPP is not required.

**September, 2017** – amendment to the Subject, reference, and paragraphs 1,2 and 3; added paragraphs 10 and 11.

**December, 2016**

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