

# Merchant Marine Circular

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

## MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-381

**To:** Ship-owners/Operators, Company Designated Person Ashore (DPA), Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels.

**Subject:** U.S. Pre-ports arrival checklist for Panama flagged vessels.

**Reference:** Law N°. 2 of January 17, 1980, SOLAS, Chapter I, Part B, Rule 11, A y C - USCG - Targeting of Foreign Vessels for Port State Control (PSC) Examination - Serial CVC-WI-021(1).

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1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to implement additional assessment requirements to decrease the detention numbers of vessels calling in the United States of America (U.S) ports that may subject to Port State Control (PSC) inspections.
  2. As you are aware the Coast Guard implemented an initiative to identify high-quality ships and flags, and provide incentives to encourage quality operations. This initiative is called QUALSHIP 21, and through this initiative high-quality vessels should be recognized and rewarded for their commitment to safety and quality.
  3. As Administration one of our main objectives is to be part of the QUALSHIP 21 program and obtain the associated benefits to Panama Flagged vessels. For this reason, a checklist has drawn up ([see ANNEX](#)), to assist Ship-Owners, operators, technical managers, Designated Persons Ashore (DPA) and vessel Master's to find weak items that can results as a ground for detention through Port State Control Inspections by the U.S. Coast Guard.
  4. The checklist must be sent ninety-six hours (96hrs) before the vessel arrives to U.S ports, to the following email address: [psc@amp.gob.pa](mailto:psc@amp.gob.pa). For voyages with lasts less than 96 hours (96hrs), the checklist must be sent at least twenty-four hours (24hrs) before arrival at port.



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The use of this checklist is compulsory for all the Panamanian vessels prior to arrivals U.S. ports, 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.

5. 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 effective corrective actions, together with the vessel Recognized Organization (R.O.) and Segumar Offices. At the same time, PSC Authority shall be informed as requested by regulation 11 "Maintenance of conditions after survey", SOLAS Chapter I.
6. For more details regarding the USCG PSC targeting process, please refer to USCG - Targeting of Foreign Vessels for Port State Control (PSC) Examination - Serial [CVC-WI-021\(1\)](#), enclosed to this document and the USCG PSC web page in the following link:

<https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Inspections-Compliance-CG-5PC-/Commercial-Vessel-Compliance/Foreign-Offshore-Compliance-Division/PortStateControl/R>

**November, 2020** – Changed document in the hyperlink of paragraph 3 - In paragraph 5 of the Check list a new point 6 is included.

**June, 2020.**

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

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