



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-251

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

Subject: Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) - Occupational Groups.

Reference: Law 2 of January 6, 2009; Resolution VII, concerning information on Occupational Groups.

1. The purpose of this Circular is to inform users of the Panamanian Registry that this Administration has decided that the certification required by Regulation 5.1.3 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 shall not apply to Platforms or MODU (Mobile Offshore Drilling Units), since their main service involves operations of drilling, exploration or exploitation of resources beneath the seabed.
2. Shipowners or operators may, if desired, request voluntary certification through a Recognized Organization authorized for the issuance of the Maritime Labour Certificate.
3. Likewise, the MLC, 2006 provisions that regulate the working relationship apply solely to the personnel directly related to the navigation of the Platform or MODU.
4. Personnel under the following conditions shall be excluded and not considered as seafarers, according to what is established on Resolution VII regarding information on occupational groups.
 - a. the duration of the stay on board,
 - b. the frequency of periods of work spent on board,
 - c. the location of the person's place of work, and
 - d. the purpose of the person's work on board.
5. The Platforms or MODU (Mobile Offshore Drilling Units) are subject to safety annual inspections (ASI), which shall be performed by the Flag surveyors.

March, 2013 – Addition of paragraph 5.

March, 2013 – Changes in paragraph 1.

August, 2012

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

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