



General Directorate of Merchant Marine



Panama - May 03rd, 2021
Letter No. 109-01-010-DGMM-SEG

Sirs

RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Panama Maritime Authority, please accept our warmest regards.

The General Directorate of Merchant Marine has the honor to contact you regarding equivalents based on SOLAS 1974 Chapter III, Reg. 35 and SOLAS 1983 Amend, Chapter III, Reg. 26, granted to those vessels of 30 years or more of construction with length of 85 meter or over/more.

This Administration has determined that equivalent based on SOLAS 1974 Chapter III, Reg. 35 and SOLAS 1983 Amendment, Chapter III, Reg. 26 will not be accepted and granted to vessels of 30 years or more of construction with length of 85 meter or over/more; therefore equivalents issued by another Flag State to ships that follow the aforementioned conditions will not be admitted.

However, for vessels of 30 years or more of construction with length of 85 meter or over/more, this General Directorate of Merchant Marine may grant an Exemption Certificate, under the basis of SOLAS 1974, Chapter III / Reg. 3.a and SOLAS 1983 Amend / Chapter III / Reg. 2.1 if the condition that their voyage do not proceed more than 20 miles from the nearest land, is met.

As a Flag State we are responsible for the compliance with all the international conventions dully ratified, therefore this Administration is committed to report equivalents granted into GISIS database. However, equivalents of SOLAS 1974 Chapter III, Reg. 35 and SOLAS 1983 Amend, Chapter III, Reg. 26, granted to those vessels of 30 years or more of construction with length of 85 meter or over/more, has not been reported into GISIS, and there is no intention to accept any equivalent arrangement on these regards. The acceptance of equivalences to Panamanian registered vessels without consent of this Administration might lead into detentions of the Panamanian fleet within the different MOU, becoming into a bad performance of the Flag which will affect all parties involved.



DIRECCIÓN GENERAL
DE MARINA MERCANTE
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This measure was taken with the aim to maintain the safety of life at sea, the safety of our fleet, compliance with the IMO instruments, avoid further detentions, as well as, to optimize our Merchant Marine Fleet, reason why it is important to work closely with all of the Recognized Organization dully authorized.

With the assurances of my highest consideration and respect,

Eng. Rafael N. Cigarruista G.
General Director

RNCG/RB/JDG/tj
RB JD



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