



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
**MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-340**

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**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: Application of Annex 14 of the Code of Safe Practice for Cargo Stowage and Securing (CSS Code).**

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**Reference: Resolution No. 106-OMI-179-DGMM of 20 October, 2016 which adopts the MSC.1/Circ.1352/Rev.1- Annex 14 of the CSS Code (Guidance on Providing Safe Working Conditions for Securing Containers on Deck).**

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**1. PURPOSE**

**1.1** The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform and offer guidance to Ship-owners, Operators, Masters and Recognized Organizations on the application of the new Annex 14 of the CSS Code for new and existing ships designed and fitted for the carriage of containers on deck, relating to the “Guidance on Providing Safe Working Conditions for Securing of Containers on Deck”.

**2. APPLICABILITY**

**2.1** Considering that MSC.1/Circ.1352/Rev.1 of 15 December 2014, was adopted by this Administration through Resolution No. 106-OMI-179-DGMM of 20 October, 2016, and that member governments were invited to apply sections 4.4 (Training and familiarization), 7.1 (Introduction), 7.3 (Maintenance) and section 8 (specialized container safety design) to existing containerships; as well member governments were also invited to apply the principles of the guidance contained in section 6 (Design) and 7.2 (Operational Procedures), to existing container ships as far a practical, with the understanding that existing ships would not be required to be enlarged or undergo other major structural modifications, this Administration instructs as follows:

**2.1.1 New container ships:** the keels of which are laid on or after 1 July 2017, shall apply the new Annex 14 of the CSS Code entirely.

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**2.1.2 Existing container ships:** the keels of which were laid or which are at a similar stage of construction before 1 July 2017, shall apply Section 4.4 (Training and familiarization), Section 7.1 (Introduction), Section 7.3 (Maintenance) and Section 8 (Specialized Container Safety Design) of new Annex 14 by the first survey related to the Safety Construction Certificate on or after 1 July 2018; and

**2.1.3** Ship-owners, Operators of existing ships are must apply the principles of relevant guidance contained in the new Annex 14, section 6 (Design) and section 7.2 (Operational Procedures), as far as practicable, with the understanding that existing ships would not be required to be enlarged or undergo other major structural modifications as determined by the flag State Administration. As a minimum existing container ships the keel of which were laid or which are at a similar stage of construction before 1 July 2017 shall comply with the following requirements, by their first scheduled dry-docking on or after 1 July 2018, but not later than 1 July 2023.

**2.1.4** Shipowners, Operators of existing ships are encouraged to include procedures for cargo safe access plan (CSAP) in accordance with Chapter 5 of MSC.1/Circ.1353/Rev.1

**2.2** Notwithstanding the above compliance, ROs are requested to inform ship-owners that differing requirements could have been implemented by port and terminal operators. Ship-owners should be advised to enquire with the competent authorities of the ports which their ships are calling on any additional requirements.

*November, 2016*

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

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