

# Merchant Marine Circular

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

## MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-200

**To:** Owners/Operators of Panamanian flagged vessels, Recognized, Organizations, Masters and Annual Safety Inspectors, and all other stakeholders.

**Subject:** Revision of the IBC/BCH Code and MARPOL 73/78 Annex II.

**Reference:**

- a) Resolution MEPC.315(74) dated May 17, 2019, adopted through Resolution No. 106-OMI-239-DGMM of July 31, 2020,
- b) Resolution MEPC.318(74) dated May 17, 2019, adopted through Resolution No.106-OMI-238-DGMM of July 31, 2020,
- c) Resolution MEPC.319(74) dated May 17, 2019, adopted through Resolution No. 106-OMI-241-DGMM of July 31, 2020.
- d) Resolution MSC.460(101) dated June 14, 2019, adopted through Resolution No.106-OMI-238-DGMM of July 31, 2020,
- e) Resolution MSC.463(101) dated June 14, 2019, adopted through Resolution No.106-OMI-241-DGMM of July 31, 2020,
- f) Resolution A.1122(30) dated December 6, 2017, adopted through Resolution No.107-OMI-201-DGMM of October 10, 2018,
- g) Resolution A.673(16) dated October 19, 1989, adopted through the Resolution No. 106-OMI-186-DGMM of February 3, 2017.
- h) Resolution A.1122(30) dated December 6, 2017, adopted through Resolution No.107-OMI-201-DGMM of October 10, 2018,
- i) Resolution A.673(16) of October 19, 1989, adopted through the Resolution No. 106-OMI-186-DGMM of February 3, 2017.
- j) Resolution MSC.219(82) dated December 8, 2006, adopted through the Resolution No. 106-OMI-54-DGMM of October 9, 2008.
- k) Resolution MEPC.166(56) dated July 13, 2007, adopted through the Resolution 106-OMI-54-DGMM of October 9, 2008.

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## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform Owners/Operators, Recognized Organizations, Masters, and Annual Safety Inspectors on the applicable procedures regarding the amendments to the IBC Code, BCH Code and



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MARPOL 73/78 Annex II, adopted on 2019 which apply to chemical tankers and ships carrying noxious liquid substances in bulk, and entered into force on January 1, 2021, with regard to the following:

- 1.1.1. Resolution MEPC.315(74) dated May 17, 2019 related to amendments to MARPOL Annex II - Cargo residues and tank washing of persistent floating products.
- 1.1.2. Resolution MEPC.318(74) dated May 17, 2019 and Resolution MSC.460 (101) dated June 14, 2019, related to amendments IBC Code Chapter 1 - Definitions, Chapter 15 - Special requirements, Chapter 16 - Operational requirements, Chapter 17 - summary of minimum requirements, Chapter 18 – List of products to which the Code does not apply, Chapter 19 – Index of Products Carried in Bulk, Chapter 21 – Criteria for assigning carriage requirements for products subject to IBC Code,
- 1.1.3. Resolution MEPC.319(74) dated May 17, 2019, and Resolution MSC.463(101) related to BCH Code, Chapter IV, V, VI – Special, operational and minimum requirements.

## 2. Preamble

2.1. The amendments introduce new requirements as a result of the assessment of products. Amendments which applies to new and existing ships will take effect on January 1, 2021, therefore chemical tankers and offshore supply vessels and other vessels carrying Noxious Liquid Substances shall be Certified in compliance with the new amendments.

## 3. Definitions

3.1. The following new definition is included on the amendments:

3.1.1. Persistent floater means a slick forming substance with the following properties:

- Density:  $\leq$  sea water (1025 kg/m<sup>3</sup> at 20°C);
- Vapour pressure:  $\leq$  0.3 kPa;
- Solubility:  $\leq$  0.1% (for liquids)  $\leq$  10% (for solids); and
- Kinematic viscosity:  $>$  10 cSt at 20°C."



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## 4. Instruction

- 4.1. In line with the entry into force of the new amendments, Recognized Organizations are instructed to implement it at the earliest opportunity, requiring the reissuance of the following documents:
  - 4.1.1. Certificate of Fitness for the carriage of Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC/BCH Code Certificates),
  - 4.1.2. Certificate for the Carriage of Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk,
  - 4.1.3. Certificate of Fitness (issued under the guidelines for the Transport and Handling of limited amounts of hazardous and Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk on Offshore Support Vessels),
  - 4.1.4. Certificate of Fitness (Code for the Transport and Handling of Hazardous and Noxious Liquid Substances in bulk on Offshore Support Vessels (OSV Chemical Code),
  - 4.1.5. Procedures and Arrangements (P&A) Manuals.
- 4.2. As the amendments introduce changes of ship type, tank type, other carriage requirements for some cargoes, and requirements for pre-washing for some products. Therefore, the range of products a ship is certified to carry will differ before and after January 1, 2021.
- 4.3. The new Certificate of Fitness based on the new amendments shall be issued before the entry into force date of the amendments (must be on board from January 1, 2021) and kept on board with the existing certificate. New Certificates will have the same expiry date as the existing Certificate and is effective, and supersedes the existing certificate, at the entry into force of the amendments (on January 1, 2021).
- 4.4. All cargo loading after this date must be in accordance with the new certificates. When cargo is loaded before January 1, 2021, and unloaded after this date, the relevant provisions of the IBC Code at the time of loading are applicable until the cargo has been unloaded.



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4.5. Offshore supply vessels with Certificates of Fitness in compliance with the “LHNS Guidelines” - IMO Resolution A.673(16) or “OSV Chemical Code” - IMO Resolution A.1122(30), are also subject to these amendments.

**September, 2020** – *Whole Merchant Marine Circular revised.*  
**February, 2009.**

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

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