



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Segumar Panama

Merchant Marine Circular No. 204

To: Shipowners/Operators, Masters, Resident Agents, Recognized Organizations

Subject: Outside Ship's Bottom inspection and Dry docking Interface Periods for Panamanian Flagged Vessels

**Reference: Guidelines on Assembly Resolution A.997(25) which revokes the Assembly Resolution A.948(23)
Law Decree N°. 7
SOLAS 74, as amended
Resolution MSC.204(81), adopted on 18 May 2006
Resolution N°. 604-04-118-ALCN of October 28, 1988**

This Circular supersedes MMC-141

1. This Circular contains the dry-docking survey interval requirements for the Panamanian flag registered ships. The instructions described in this circular have been prepared based on the Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification, 2007 set out in the annex of the Resolution A. 997(25), as Panama Maritime Authority has determined.
2. Outside ship's bottom inspections are to be attended by a surveyor from a Recognized Organization. The Administration may request at any time the survey report and related documentation used for the analysis and evaluation of the ship's conditions.
3. The Panama Maritime Authority notifies to all Ship Owners/ Operators, Legal Representatives and Recognized Organizations that the **outside ship's bottom inspection** periods for the Panamanian Flag registered ships, are as follows:

3.1. Cargo ships of 500 Gross Tonnage and above:

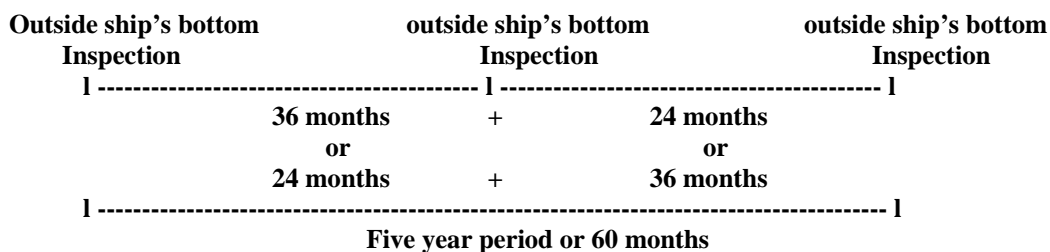
- 3.1.1 In accordance with the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 74, as amended (SOLAS 74) Regulation I/10(a)(v), all cargo ships in possession of a Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate requires a minimum of two inspections of the outside ship's bottom during any five year period of validity of the relevant certificate.

⁺ Related items as defined in item 5.1 of the Assembly Resolution A.997 (25).

^{*}The definition of "any five-year period" is the five-year period of validity of the International Load Line Certificate.

- 3.1.2 Cargo ships of 500 Gross Tonnage and above shall be subject to a minimum of two inspections of the outside ship's bottom, during the five year period of validity of the Cargo
- 3.1.3 Ship Safety Construction Certificate. One such inspection shall be carried out on or after the fourth annual survey in conjunction with the renewal of the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate. Where the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate has been extended under SOLAS as amended, regulation I/14(e) or (f), *this (5) five-year period* may be extended to coincide with the validity of the certificate. In all cases the interval between any two such inspections should not exceed 36 months.
No extension will be permitted on the period of 36 months between any two such inspections.

Explained as follows:



- 3.1.4 The inspection of the outside of the ship's bottom and the survey of related items⁺, should include an inspection to ensure that they are in a satisfactory condition and fit for the service for which the ship is intended.
- 3.1.5 Inspections of the outside of the ship's bottom *should normally* be carried out with the ship in a dry dock. However, consideration may be given to inspections of the ship's bottom not conducted in conjunction with the renewal survey to be carried out with the ship afloat in case of **ships others than bulk carriers and oil tanker less than 15 years of age**.
- 3.1.6 Inspections with the ship afloat should only be carried out when the conditions are satisfactory and the proper equipment and suitably trained staff is available. Prior authorization from this Administration to be granted by the Panama Segumar Office is necessary to complete an alternate inspection with the ship afloat.
- 3.1.7 Where an inspection of the outside of the ship's bottom is not completed within the periods specified above. To restore the validity of the Certificate should be carrying out the appropriate survey which, in such circumstances, should consist of the requirements of the survey that was not carried out, but its thoroughness and stringency should have regard to the period of time beyond the survey due date. The Administration will investigate why the survey was not carried out within its lapse of time and consider further action, if necessary.

⁺ Related items as defined in item 5.1 of the Assembly Resolution A.997 (25).

*The definition of "any five-year period" is the five-year period of validity of the International Load Line Certificate.

3.2. Cargo ships of less than 500 Gross Tonnage:

- 3.2.1 Irrespective of the navigation area this group of ships shall be subject to a minimum of two outside ship's bottom inspections during any five year period * following the same instructions applicable to **Cargo ships of 500 Gross Tonnage and above**. The required inspections of the ship's bottom for the renewal surveys of the Cargo Ship Safety Certificate under the provisions of the Decree 45 of the Republic of Panama could be carried out with the ship afloat. Prior authorization from this Administration to be granted by the Panama Segumar Office is necessary to complete an alternate inspection with the ship afloat.

3.3. Passenger ships:

- 3.3.1 Irrespective of the navigation area passenger ships shall be subject to two outside ship's bottom inspection with the ship in a dry dock in a *five (5) year period* (60 months)*. In all cases the period of time between these two bottom inspections in dry dock shall not exceed 36 months. The remaining bottom surveys of these ships can be carried out as underwater surveys. Consecutive underwater surveys will be allowed for these ships.
- 3.3.2 The required inspections of the ship's bottom for the renewal surveys of the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate can be carried out with the ship afloat.
- 3.3.3 Inspections with the ship afloat should only be carried out when the conditions are satisfactory and the proper equipment and suitably trained staff is available, and previous authorization has been issued by this Administration through the Panama Segumar Office.
- 3.3.4 Operators of Panamanian Passenger ships will make the request for underwater survey in lieu of dry dock directly to the ship's Recognized Organization. The Recognized Organization will evaluate the request and, after considering all relevant information, make a recommendation to this office. If the request is approved, the underwater examinations will be performed according to the Recognized Organization procedures, by personnel of companies certified by the Recognized Organization to do these surveys and to the satisfaction of the attending surveyor.

3.4. Fishing ships of 24 meters in length and above:

- 3.4.1 Irrespective of the navigation area shall be subject to a minimum of two inspection of the outside ship's bottom during any five year period. The five year period is defined by the Fishing Vessels Safety Certificate.

* Related items as defined in item 5.1 of the Assembly Resolution A.997 (25).

*The definition of "any five-year period" is the five-year period of validity of the International Load Line Certificate.

3.5. Fishing vessels of less than 24 meters in length:

3.5.1 Irrespective of the navigation area this group of ships shall be subject to a minimum of two inspection of the ship's outside during any six year period.

3.6. Unscheduled Dry-Docking Survey

3.6.1 Dry docking for emergency repairs after a damage of the ship or any other fortuity circumstances will not be taken as one of the dock attendance specified in this circular if the ship does not carry out the equivalent surveys according to the International Standards, Requirements of the Flag or the Recognized Organization acting on their behalf. The Administration may require the supervision of a Flag State Surveyor if necessary by written order of the General Director of Merchant Marine.

3.6.2 The Recognized Organization surveyors shall be appointed to attend and supervise the two ship's outside inspections of every ship and submit the Dry Dock Survey Report or In water survey with the conclusion of the inspected areas, repairs and pending items; to keep the same at least at their Main Office. The Administration may request at any time those surveys reports and related documentation used for the analysis and evaluation of the ships condition.

3.6.3 The Dry Docking of Cargo ships should coincide with the renewal or intermediate survey of the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate, International Load Line certificate, International oil Pollution prevention Certificate (if applicable) or any other related certificate.

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⁺ Related items as defined in item 5.1 of the Assembly Resolution A.997 (25).

^{*}The definition of "any five-year period" is the five-year period of validity of the International Load Line Certificate.