

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-164

- To:** Ship-owner/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organization (RO's).
- Subject:** Guidelines on early assessment of hull damage and possible need for abandonment of bulk carriers, on board of Panamanian Flagged Vessels.
- Reference:** Law No. 7 of October 27, 1977 - International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) as amended.
Resolution No. 106-OMI-33-DGMM, December 26, 2007 adopted
Resolution A.744(18) November 4, 1993 as amended.
MSC Circular 1143, December 13, 2004. (**Only as recommendation**)
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1. Purpose:

- 1.1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform recommendations of The Maritime Safety Committee, of IMO for decision-making emanating from various formal safety assessment (FSA) studies on bulk carrier safety.
- 1.2. The Maritime Safety Committee of IMO Concluded at its MSC Circular 1143, December 13, 2004 that bulk carriers do deserve continued special attention and a number of measures were approved to address the issues identified, both structural and operational.

2. Scope:

- 2.1. These guidelines apply to bulk carriers and equally to ships other than bulk carriers when carrying dense cargoes on board.



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3. Requirement.

- 3.1. The Panama Maritime Authority urge companies, as defined in the ISM Code, which operate bulk carriers flying its flag, to issue ship specific guidance, based on the annexed Guidelines, to the masters of such bulk carriers with a view to improving the precautionary measures and procedures for emergencies on board. This ship specific guidance should be brought to the attention of all crew members during familiarization training on board of the Panamanian Flag registered vessels.
4. Please see the full text of the IMO Circular in question [attached](#) to this MMC.

November, 2023 – *New paragraph 1 and 2.*
July, 2002.

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

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