



CIRCULAR MCO – 016-2021

DATE: SEPTEMBER 24th, 2021
FROM: MCO HEAD OFFICE – TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT
TO: SURVEYORS/ MANagements/ OWNERS/ OPERATORS
**SUBJECT: MARITIME AFFAIRS & CASUALTY INVESTIGATIONS OF PANAMA
FLAGGED VESSELS**

Dear All:

By this means we would like to draw your attention to circular **MMC-184** aimed at setting rules and regulations on Marine Accident Investigations according to Chapter 1, Regulation 21 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.

The above-mentioned rules and regulations establish that the Maritime Affairs Investigation Departments is in charge of investigating marine accidents and incidents which may increase the risk if human life or the marine environment. Such investigations shall not be to practice criminal, civil or administrative actions, they empower the Maritime Affairs Investigation Department to confiscate or withdraw during the investigation, logbooks, equipment, licenses, documents, books or vessel parts with the purpose of the investigation. Also, all personnel onboard whenever they are within Panama territorial waters shall be asked to testify in reference to the marine accident or incident. Masters, property owners or vessel operators must cooperate with the investigation.

We as a Recognized Organization, as well as all marine safety inspectors involved may be called to render statements and must provide all entries and documents which shall be required to carry out the investigation. If any owner, operator, master, crew member or recognized organization do not comply with their obligations to cooperate with the investigation, will be subject to sanctions.

In the event of any kind of marine accident of casualty involving Panamanian registered vessels or foreign vessels within Panamanian jurisdictional waters, owners/operators or master should immediately notice the Maritime Affairs Investigation Department by phone or mail to casualty@amp.gob.pa .

Circular **MMC-184** replaces **MMC-31, MMC-32, MMC-33** and **MMC-37**.

Note: **Circular MMC-184** attached for reference.

All related documents can be found on our website: <https://macosnar.com/> .

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,



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