

**General Directorate of Merchant Marine**

Panama, May 05, 2021

Note No. 100-01-117-GDMM-SEGUMAR-MLCS

Dear Sirs  
Recognized Organizations,

Taking into consideration the cases of abandonment that has increased with the Covid-19 Pandemic, the International Labour Organization (ILO) calls for full respects of seafarer's rights, for this reason we may request, that at the time of carrying out the inspections (interim, initial, intermediate, renewal or additional audit) based on the provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC), according to the Appendix A5-I to take special attention to Point 5 of the Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance (DMLC), in regards use of recruitment and placement services, which must be authorized, regulated and certified. For this reason this Administration would like to make the following clarification:

- The recruitment and placement services that operate from the Republic of Panama must be duly approved by the Labour Ministry, who will grant them an operation license, a situation that also applies to the seafarers organizations located in Panama that offer recruitment and placement services;
- When the recruitment and placement services is located in a Member State of the MLC, shall be operated in conformity with a standardized system of license or certification or other form of regulation and must be available on board of the vessel; and
- In virtue of the Standard A1.4.9 of the MLC, when the shipowner or operator use a seafarers recruitment and placement services based in countries or territories in which the MLC does not apply, ensure as far as practicable, that those services meet the requirements of the convention and keep on board any license or certificates or similar authorization or other regulation issue by the competent authority, before the recognized organization endorse the DMLC Part II and issue a Maritime Labour Certificate.

The foregoing, due to the fact that when the inspection reports are verify the Technical Department of Analysis and Maritime Certification (Segumar), through the MLC Section, has detected that the shipowners or operators uses the recruitment and placement services and on board only an certificate issue by a recognized organization or sent us a web site, which does not constitute documentary evidence that indicates that the agency operates in accordance with the requirements set out in the MLC convention.

The certification issued by a recognized organization is not indicative that the country approved the agency, which may have consequences during the Flag and Port States control inspections, which undermines the performance of the Panamanian Merchant Marine and the recognized organization that issues the Maritime Labour Certificate.

Sincerely,



**Eng. Rafael N. Cigarruista G.**  
General Director of Merchant Marine

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