

# Merchant Marine Circular

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

## **MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-112**

**To:** Ship-owner/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organization (RO's).

**Subject:** EPIRB Programming and Registration.

**Reference:** Law No. 7 of October 27, 1977 - SOLAS / CHAPTER IV – Reg. 15 – Page 9.

---

### **1. Purpose**

**1.1.** The purpose of this Circular is to remind Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panama Flagg Vessels, Panama Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (RO's), that the Satellite Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (Satellite EPIRB'S), on board Panamanian vessels shall be programmed with the Maritime Mobile Service Identities (MMSI), number assigned to the vessel by the International Telecommunication Union through the flag Administration. If the vessel has not been assigned a MMSI number because it is not presently fitted with GMDSS, a request shall be made to the Administration.

**1.2.** After the programming of the EPIRB is completed and verified, a confirmation notice shall be sent to the main office of the Administration including the following information:

- a. Name of vessel
- b. Call letters
- c. IMO number
- d. MMSI number programmed
- e. Operator's complete name
- f. Mailing address
- g. Contact phone and fax numbers and/or email



# Merchant Marine Circular

- h. Designated person in charge (In case of ISM certified vessels)
- i. Copy of the valid radio license

## 1.3. This information will be used in case of an emergency.

- 1.3.1. After the initial registration is performed or completed, it is the responsibility of the ships owner/operator or person responsible of the Vessel, to inform the Administration of any changes to the contact point information. Once completed by the ships owner/operator or person responsible of the Vessel, should consider as well notifies the Classification Society as well as any interested party of the information updated.
- 1.3.2. Request for MMSI numbers and notices of changes of programming / registration shall be sent to:

**GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MERCHANT MARINE  
SHIP REGISTRY DEPARTMENT  
MARITIME TELECOMMUNICATION SECTION**

**EMAIL:** [radio-amp@amp.gob.pa](mailto:radio-amp@amp.gob.pa)  
**PHONE:** (507) 501-5025

1.4. Be advised that the MMSI number shall appear at the top of the Panamanian Valid Radio License. This number shall have nine digits, where the first three digits represent the country. MMSI numbers starting with zero (0) belong to Group Station, Coast Stations or Group Cost Stations Identities and are not to be assigned to a Ship Station Identity.

1.5. It is important that each operator should check that the correct MMSI number as listed in the Radio License programmed in their equipment. If the MMSI number does not appear on your Radio License please contact the Administration.

**November, 2020** - Changes of contact point  
**October, 2013** – Changes all throughout the text  
**December, 1999**



# Merchant Marine Circular

---

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

Ship Registry Department  
General Directorate of Merchant Marine  
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501- 5025 / 5018

E-mail: [radio-amp@amp.gob.pa](mailto:radio-amp@amp.gob.pa)

Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/>