

QRS CIRCULAR 03-22

August 30th, 2022

TO: QRS SURVEYORS & REPRESENTATIVES

REF: Certificate of Inspection of Crew Accommodation

Dear Representatives, Surveyors, and other interested parties.

This is to highlight matters of relevance towards survey and certification activities in connection with the Certificate of Inspection of Crew Accommodation, on behalf of the Panama Maritime Authority, as per the framework of the latest regulations concerning the matter, approved by Panama as per Res. JD 045-2021.

While the certificate is required of vessels of 500 GT and upwards, with **keel laid on or before 20 August 2013**, the following are exempted:

- Vessels of any type and/or size operating exclusively in ports, harbors, rivers, and estuaries.
- Pleasure yachts not engaging in commercial activities.
- Fishing vessels of less than 75 GT
- Ships engaging in whale fishing or similar activities
- Fishing vessels engaging normally in recreational or sports fishing
- Unmanned vessels

The above means that, even if requested, the AMP will not process certificates issued to any of those vessels to which the regulations do not apply. If the vessel is exempted as per the above, and the owners insist in certification, QRS may issue a Statement of Compliance instead.

The above notwithstanding, Panama has taken a special position regarding Mobile Offshore Units and Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MOU's/MODU's). These types of vessels are subject to voluntary compliance. This means that they are not required to carry a CICA, however, may request certification from AMP if the owners so desire.

Existing CICA's (either Interim or Full Term) shall be deemed invalid in any of the following cases:

- The validity term has expired
- Vessel's deletion from the Panamanian registry
- Any of the following vessel characteristics changes: name, Patent number, call sign or distinctive letters, gross tonnage, type of service, or any other change which may affect the certificate's validity
- Modifications to the structure which may constitute a substantial change in crew accommodations are made.
- When a new certificate is issued prior to the expiration of the existing certificate

Finally, we take the opportunity to remind you of some important points to consider when engaging in survey and certification activities for CICA:

- Regardless of how they are identified in the vessels General Arrangement Plan (GAP), those cabins labeled as "Owners", "Pilot", etc., are to be labeled in the Record of Approved Crew Accommodation Details (RACAD), as "Others". This is because such persons are not considered as "seafarers" in the MLC.
- Also, regardless of designation in GAP, those rooms labeled as "Smoking" in the GAP shall be relabeled as "Recreation" in the RACAD.
- Mess and recreation facilities are to be provided separately for officers and crew in vessels of 1,000 GT or more. If this is not the case, an exemption certificate shall be processed in addition to the CICA.

Any doubts, questions or comments to be addressed to QRS HO.

Regards,

QUALITAS REGISTER OF SHIPPING – HEAD OFFICE