

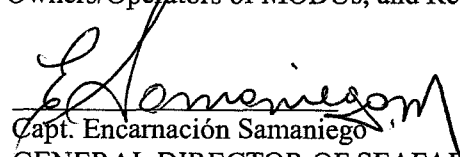


General Directorate for Seafarers



CIRCULAR DGGM No. 015-2006

TO : Owners/Operators of MODUs, and Recognized Organizations

FROM : 
Capt. Encarnación Samaniego
GENERAL DIRECTOR OF SEAFARERS

SUBJE : APPLICATIONS FOR PANAMANIAN MODU CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY

REFERENCE : RESOLUTION A.891 (21) ADOPTED ON 25 NOVEMBER 1999
RESOLUTION No. 007-2001 DATED 12 FEBRUARY 2001
LAW DECREE NO. 7 ART. 7 DATED 10 FEBRUARY 1998

DATE : December 7, 2006

Introduction

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to announce new regulations established to ensure that the officers on board Mobil Offshore Drilling Units with the Panamanian flag meets the standards, as presented by the Panamanian law and International Maritime Organization.

Application

2. The new regulations apply to all self-propulsion or non-self-propulsion units capable of engaging in drilling operations for the exploration or exploitation of resources beneath the sea-bed such as liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons, sulphur or salt. Such MODU design include: Bottom Bearing Units (a) Self-Elevating (Jack-Up) Unit: unit with moveable, bottom bearing legs capable of raising the hull above the surface of the sea, (b) Submersible Unit: Ship shape, barge type or novel hull design, other than self-elevating unit, intended for operating while bottom bearing. Surface Units: Semi-Submersible and Drill ships).
3. Once the party in interest or his authorized representative has complied with the MMC No. 51, items 1 and 2 and submitted at the moment of the application copy of the requirements mentioned in the next item No. 4 and the Technical Office in Panama City or Merchant Marine Consular Office has confirmed payment, a CT (Processing Certificate) valid for 3

months will be issued like proof that a Permanent MODU Panamanian Certificate is under process.

4. The requirements to meet to work in any position on board a MODU are:

- Original Application Form duly filled out
- Passport, Seaman book, Birth Certificate or US MMD/Z-Card
- Medical Certificates (Refer to Merchant Marine Circular No. 44)
- Six color photographs approximately 3cm by 3cm.
- Application's payment receipt. (Refer to Merchant Marine Circular No. 54)
- Home country MODU Certificate of Competency (if it is applicable).

5. Seafarers applying for any MODU Panamanian Certificate of Competency and are not holding a Home Country MODU Certificate of Competency valid within a validity period of 5, will have to meet relying on the case, the requirements established from item 6 on.

6. All seafarers applying the first time for the MODU Panamanian Certificate of Competency will submit the courses mentioned in this paragraph recognized by either an offshore oil and gas industry training center or any STCW78/95 training center, within of a validity period of 5 years. Nevertheless, if they have been onboard for a period of not less than 12 months within the last 5 years or hold a valid Home Country Certificate of Competency according to the STCW'78/95 regulations II/2, II/1, III/2 or III/1 and within a validity period of 5 years, they will not need to submit for future applications the following courses revalidated:

- Elementary First Aid
- Basic Fire Fighting
- Advance Fire Fighting
- Survival Craft/Survival Suit

7. Depending on MODU positions requested by each officer, the following courses must be submitted but not necessarily revalidated by an offshore oil and gas industry training center or USCG training center as long as officers comply with letter of service required at each item:

- Blowout Prevention & Well Control (except to Bottom Bearing and Surface Unit on Underway)
- Survival Craft/Survival Suit
- Offshore Installation Manager, Barge Supervisor or Ballast Control Operator course.
- Stability and Ballast Control for MODU.

8. Besides the requirements mentioned in the items 4 and 6, officers applying for **OIM (Offshore Installation Manager) of MODU** shall meet the following:

- Blowout Prevention & Well Control.
- Survival Craft/Survival Suit.
- Stability and Ballast Control course for MODU.
- Letter of service regarding 4 years of experience within the last 5 years on MODU as any of the positions considered to an Able Seaman MOU (AB MOU).

- Letter of service regarding rig moves depending on OIM position requested:
 1. 2 rig moves on Surface Units or Bottom Bearing Units to the OIM applications of MODU Unrestricted.
 2. 3 rig moves on Bottom Bearing Units to the OIM applications of Bottom Bearing Unit Underway or on Location & Underway.
 3. 3 rig moves on Surface Unit to the OIM applications of Surface Unit Underway or on Location & Underway.
9. Besides the requirements mentioned in the items 4 and 6, officers applying for **BS (Barge Supervisor) of MODU** shall meet the following:
- Survival Craft/Survival Suit
 - Stability and Ballast Control course for MODU
 - Letter of service regarding 3 years of experience within the last 5 years on MODU as any of the positions considered to an Able Seaman MOU (AB MOU).
 - Letter of service where 84 days have been performed as BCO or BS.
10. Besides the requirements mentioned in the items 4 and 6, officers applying for **BCO (Ballast Control Operator) of MODU** shall meet the following:
- Survival Craft/Survival Suit
 - Stability and Ballast Control course for MODU.
 - Letter of service regarding 1 year of experience within the last 5 years on MODUs as any of the positions considered to an Able Seaman MOU (AB MOU).
 - Letter of service of at least 28 days as BCO trainee.

Note: The courses of OIM (Offshore Installation Manager), BS (Barge Supervisor) and BCO (Ballast Control Operator) mentioned in the item 7, will be considered equivalent to a comprehensive USCG examination which proof that the examination required for those positions has been successfully passed.

11. Besides the requirements mentioned in the items 4 and 6, officers applying for Chief Engineer MODU shall meet the following:
- Letter of service regarding 6 years of experience on MODU where at least 3 years have been performed as mechanic, motorman, subsea engineer, electrician, barge engineer, toolpusher, unit superintendent, crane operator or equivalent. (18 months must have been assigned to self-propelled or propulsion assisted unit).
 - Letter of service regarding 2 years of experience as an assistance engineer (MODU). (12 months must have been to assigned self-propelled or propulsion assisted unit).
12. Besides the requirements mentioned in the items 4 and 6, officers applying for Assistance Engineer MODU shall meet the following:
- Letter of service regarding 3 years of experience on MODU where at least 18 months have been performed as mechanic, motorman, subsea engineer, electrician, barge

engineer, toolpusher, unit superintendent, crane operator, oiler or equivalent. (9 months must have been assigned to self-propelled or propulsion assisted unit) OR an accredited engineering degree.

Note: The applicant who holds a Panamanian MODU Certificate of Competency expired and goes beyond that one year grace period without renewing it, shall re-take the OIM, BS and BCO course.

13. Besides the requirements mentioned in the item 4, all OIM, BCO, BS, Barge Engineer or another Electronic Technical personnel performing radio duties other than those traditionally covered by chapter IV/2 of the STCW'78/95 Convention, shall submit a Home Country license Radio Operator Certificate that complies with the provisions of the Radio regulations so as to get a Radio Officer Panamanian Endorsement Restricted or not relying on the case. (Refer to MMC No. 94)
14. Every person required or in charge of performing radio duties with the Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS) on a MODU shall hold an appropriate certificate related to the GMDSS issued or recognized by the Administration under the provisions of the STCW'78/95 Section A-IV/2 so as to get a GMDSS General or Restricted Operator Panamanian Endorsement relying on the case. (Refer to MMC No. 94)

The Panamanian MODU Certificates of Competency referred to this Merchant Marine Circular are to be issued as follow:

- a. OIM Unrestricted
- b. OIM Bottom Bearing Units On Location
- c. OIM Bottom Bearing Units Underway
- d. OIM Bottom Bearing Units on Location & Underway
- e. OIM Surface Units on Location
- f. OIM Surface Units Underway
- g. OIM Surface Units on Location & Underway
- h. Barge Supervisor of MODU
- i. Ballast Control Operator Of MODU

* If the Rig Superintendent, Rig Manager and Night/Day Toolpusher have basically the same duties and responsibilities that an OIM, they shall meet the OIM requirements into the item 8. They are called persons in charge of the Drilling Rig.

** If Barge Engineer and Maintenance Supervisor supervise and perform the same duties in a deck related capacity they shall meet the Assistance Engineer MODU requirements.