



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-142

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To: Ship-owners/Operators, of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Class Societies and Recognized Organizations (RO's).

Subject: Emergency Escape Breathing Devices (EEBD)

Reference: a. SOLAS 74, 2000 amendments
b. MSC/Circ.1081 – Unified interpretation of the revised SOLAS Chapter II-2 – 13 June 2003.
c. IMO MSC.1/Circ.849 – May 1998

1 Purpose

This Merchant Marine Circular replaces MMC 119.

2 Application

The 2000 amendments to SOLAS 74, Chapter II-2, Reg. 13 require Emergency Escape Breathing Devices (EEBD) which will be used for escape from a compartment that has a hazardous atmosphere. The EEBD have become mandatory under the new amendments for all ships to which the safety equipment certificate is required. The application of EEBDs provisions onboard Panama flag ships shall be as follow:

3 Number of EEBDs

- a. At least two (2) EEBDs in accommodation spaces of cargo ships and one (1) spare EEBD. Applicable to new and existing ships.
- b. At least two (2) EEBDs per main vertical zone, and a total of two (2) spare EEBDs. Applicable to new and existing passenger ships carrying not more than 36 passengers.
- c. At least four (4) EEBDs per main vertical zone , and a total of two (2) spare EEBDs.. Applicable to new and existing passenger ships carrying more than 36 passengers.
- d. For the purpose of this requirement (based on UI MSC/Circ. 1081), the minimum number of EEBDs required on machinery spaces shall be as follows:
 - i. One (1) EEBD at the engine control room if located inside the machinery space;

<i>Prepared by: Translator</i>	<i>Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief</i>	<i>Approved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i>
<i>Control N°: F-RIN-04-01</i>	<i>Version: 06</i>	<i>Date: 1 August, 2016</i>
		Page 1 of 2

- ii. One (1) EEBD at the machine shop or work shop area. If there is, however, a direct access to an escape way from the workshop, an EEBD is not required; and
- iii. One (1) EEBD located near the escape ladder used a second means of escape from the machinery space.

If the ship has a machinery space with more than one deck, then one (1) EEBD for each deck shall be placed at the same area as in point (.3)

4 Additional Spares

At least two (2) sets of spare EEBDs shall be provided on board either in the area of navigation bridge, fire control station or storage room. Applicable to new and existing ships.

Additional to the above requirements, the EEBD shall have a service duration of at least 10 minutes. Also, the number and location of EEBDs and spares shall be indicated in the fire control plan.

For existing ships, the requirement is to be complied with by the first survey after 1 July 2002. For more reference, the 2000 amendments to SOLAS 74, Chapter II-2, Reg. 1.2.2 clarify the applicable requirements to existing ships.

The detailed technical standards for the EEBD, are separately provided in a mandatory code called “The International Code for the Fire Safety System (FSS Code)” adopted simultaneously.

Note: “New ships” cited above means ships constructed on or after 1 July 2002 and “Existing ships” means ships constructed prior to that date.

Authorized Organizations are instructed to follow the above mentioned guidelines, before issuing the appropriate certificate.

5 Training (as per the IMO MSC.1/Circ.849 – May 1998)

Training in the use of the EEBD should be considered as a part of basic safety training

All EEBD training units should be clearly marked and placed in addition to those minimum number required and its spare parts

Personnel should be trained to immediately don an EEBD prior to exiting a space when the atmosphere becomes life threatening. This is necessary due to the possibility of encountering smoke during escape. Such training should be accomplished by scheduling routine escape drills for crew members working in the engineering or machinery spaces.

An EEBD may also be used to escape from a machinery space due to an accidental release of a fixed CO2 system and can be carried by firefighters for the sole purpose of providing the device to personnel in need of emergency assistance.

January, 2018 – Point 3 a), b) and c) amended as well as 3 d) ii); subtitle 4 amended, and point 5 “Training added” as per IMO MSC.1/Circ.849 – may, 1998.

June, 2013

November 2005 (revised)

April 2002

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to:

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<i>Prepared by: Translator</i>	<i>Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief</i>	<i>Approved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i>
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		<i>Page 2 of 2</i>