

## **SEAFARER'S SPECIAL VISA**

*(Updated 19 February 2025)*

Panamanian embassies and consulates are only allowed by regulation to issue **tourist visas only**. The seafarer's special visa, on the other hand, is issued directly by the National Migration Service of Panama, solicited through a maritime agency that operates in Panama. Both seafarers and the maritime agency must comply with requirements as stipulated in Articles 28 and 30 of **Decree Law 3 of 22 February 2008**. See below the aforementioned articles.

**Article 28:** *The National Migration Service will create a registry of shipping agencies that operate in the Republic of Panama, so that they can act as entities responsible to the immigration authority. To enter the registry, the interested company must provide the following documents:*

- 1. Application from the shipping agency with its corresponding general details, indicating the name of the people who will be authorized by the agency to carry out the procedures before the National Migration Service, signed by the legal representative and duly notarized.*
- 2. Copy of the operating license issued by the Panama Maritime Authority.*
- 3. Copy of notice of operations.*

**Article 30:** *When the special seafarer visa has been requested through its representative or ship agent, before the National Migration Service or Merchant Marine Consulates, the company must present the following documents in favor of the seafarers:*

- 1. Seafarer's visa application form*
- 2. Copy of valid passport*
- 3. Copy of the bill of lading and guarantee by the contracting company*
- 4. Copy of the boarding pass*
- 5. Copy of the seafarer's license*