Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-320

To: Master, Ship-owners, Operators, Company Security Officers, Ship Security Officers, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates Legal Representative of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Recognized Organizations (RO's) and Recognized Security Organizations (RSO's) of Panamanian Flagged Vessel.

Subject: PROTECTION AGAINST ATTACKS BY PIRATES IN THE HIGH RISK AREA (HRA)

Reference: Law 78, of November 15th, 2010 SUA 2005 and SUA PROTOCOL.
MMC 124 SHIP SECURITY ASSESSMENT (SSA)
MMC 208 Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and Compliance with the Best Management Practices (BMP).
MMC 228 Use of Armed Security Personnel on board Panamanian Flagged Vessels (online application).
MMC 238 Ship Protection Measures for Vessels transiting High Risk Areas.

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1. The Panama Maritime Authority discourages the carrying and use of firearms and ammunitions on board Panamanian Flagged vessels, for personal protection and/or protection of the ship by the seafarers/crew; following with the principles discussed during the MSC 86/26. Under no circumstances, this Administration will allow the use of firearms by seafarers for self-protection on board the Panamanian flagged vessel.

2. According to MMC 228 and MMC 245 this Administration authorized the use of Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) to offer their services as Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel onboard Panamanian flagged vessels transiting High Risk Areas in compliance with MSC.1/Circ.1405/Rev.2.

3. All Panamanian vessels, with or without armed or unarmed security personnel, must prior to the entry into the High Risk Area, have their crew fully briefed on the preparations and a Piracy drill should be conducted. The Security drill should be reviewed and all personnel briefed on their duties, including familiarization with the alarm signifying a piracy attack, and be all clear with the appropriate response

to each.

4. While transiting through High Risk Areas (HRA), all the Panamanian Flagged vessels are requested to verify that the SSAS onboard has been correctly set up and working properly in order to accomplish the Best Management Practices (BMP) and the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) established on Merchant Marine Circular (MMC) 208 and MMC.133; mainly because this Administration recognizes that an essential part of preventing, deterring and suppressing attacks, is prompt reporting to the proper authorities and organizations, both during and post-incident.

5. Starting from April 1st, 2019, any ship calling at Port that requires the presence of the Navy Authorization on board, will be available to apply on the following website link: http://certificates.amp.gob.pa/certificates, and submit the Navy Authorization letter. After that date, the Navy Authorization will not be longer received by e-mail and only will be received through the aforementioned Website. We recommend using Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Opera and Safari to get access in the online platform.

6. For further assistance and/or inquiries please note the following contact points:

A. Maritime Ships Security Department (weekdays 08:30-16:30 hrs)
Phone: +507-501-5037/5085/5368
E-mail address: asp@amp.gob.pa

B. SEGUMAR Panama (Evenings, Weekends and Holidays)
Phone: +507-501-5350/48 or +507-501-5032
E-mail address: authorizations@segumar.com

June, 2020 *– Change of PMA phone number.*
May, 2019 *- Modification of paragraph 5*
January, 2018 *- New e-mail.*
October 2015

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

Maritime Ships Security Department
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority
Phone: (507) 501-5037/5368

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