

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-327

To: Master, Ship - owners, Operators, Company Security Officers, Ship Security Officers and Recognized Security Organizations (RSO's) of Panama Flagged Vessel.

Subject: Security Measures sailing in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG).

Reference: Law No. 38 June 4th, 1995 UNCLOS 1982.
MMC-228 - Use of Armed Security Personnel on board Panama Flagged Vessel (**online application**).
MMC-238 - Ship Protection Measures for Vessels transiting High Risk Areas.
MMC-245 - Authorized Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) transiting High Risk Areas (**online application**).

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1. On May 2021, Panama signed the Declaration of the Gulf of Guinea, on the suppression of piracy, which seeks to provide security to vessels and crew that transit through this area.
 2. Panama, as a Flag State and as a country committed to the well-being of seafarers on board its ships, supports the initiative and joins the coalition to stop the threat posed by piracy to the maritime industry, through definite steps such as:
 - Support in a tangible way the applicable law against piracy.
 - Facilitate the implementation of effective measures on board, within the region.
 - Improve the abilities regarding the use of technology and the exchange of relevant information among the agencies in charge of enforcing anti-piracy law.
 - Work to improve transparency among law enforcement agencies.



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3. The Panama Maritime Authority encourages all Panamanian flagged vessels transiting the Gulf of Guinea, to increase the security measures on board and to comply with any security regulations recommended, in territorial waters, by the Coastal and Port Authorities; taking into consideration the recent piracy attacks occurred in the region (hijacking, kidnapping and armed robbery) and comply with the [Best Management Practices \(BMP\) West Africa including Gulf of Guinea](#).
4. The Panama Maritime Authority further encourages the implementation of the necessary security measures established by this Administration through anti-piracy Merchant Marine Circulars, in particular MMC-238.
5. The use of Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) should not be considered as an alternative to the Best Management Practices (BMP) or other protective measures. The use of PMSC is an exclusive decision of the Ship-owner or Operator, and is only recommended outside the territorial waters of the coastal countries of the Gulf of Guinea. In cases where the use of PMSC is permitted within the territorial waters of a country, the shipowner or ship operator must follow the national regulations applicable by the country in this regard.
6. This Administration recognizes that an essential part of preventing, deterring and suppressing attacks is prompt reporting to the appropriate authorities and organizations, both during and post-incident.

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

A. Maritime Ships Security Department (weekdays from 08:30 to 16:30 hrs local time)

Panama City, Republic of Panama
Phone: +507-501-5037 / 5085 / 5020
E-mail address: asp@amp.gob.pa

B. SEGUMAR Panama (Evenings, Weekends and Holidays)

Panama City, Republic of Panama
Phone: +507-501-5350/ 48 or +507-501-5032
E-mail address: authorizations@segumar.com

C. Absolute Maritime Tracking Services, Inc. (a Pole Star company)

Phone: +507-301-5748
Fax: +507-301-5749
E-mail address: activations@absolutemaritime.com
Website: <http://www.polestarglobal.com>



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D. IMB (International Maritime Bureau) Piracy Reporting Centre

Phone: +60-3-2031-0014 (manned 24/7 everyday)
Fax: +60-3-2078-5769
E-mail addresses: piracy@icc-ccs.org and IMBKL@icc-ccs.org
Website: <https://icc-ccs.org/piracy-reporting-centre>

E. Marine Domain Awareness for Trade – Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG)

Brest, France and Portsmouth, England.
Phone: +33 2 98 22 88 88
E-mail addresses: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org
Website: <https://gog-mdat.org/>
Twitter: @MDAT_GoG

March, 2023 – CANCELLED. The circular MMC-230 supersedes this circular.

June, 2021 – Inclusion of new paragraphs #1 and 2#, followed by a numeric reordering in the paragraphs.

March, 2021 - Update MDAT-GoG information

June, 2020 - Change of PMA phone number.

April, 2020 – Inclusion of BMP West Africa.

January, 2018 - Update of mail.

January, 2017 – Inclusion of information of contact of MDAT-GoG.

March, 2016 - Changes all throughout the text, new point C and D.

March, 2016.

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

Maritime Ships Security Department
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5037 / (507) 501-5368
E-mail: asp@amp.gob.pa / nardila@amp.gob.pa
Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/>