

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-231

To: Ship-owners / Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panama Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (ROs).

Subject: Piracy Reports

Reference: Law 78, of November 15th, 2010 SUA 2005 and SUA PROTOCOL.
MMC-197 - Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT).
MMC-08 - Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and Compliance with the Best Management Practices (BMP).

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform you that last August 3rd, 2011 the Panama Maritime Authority together with the Marine Administrations of Liberia and the Marshall Islands signed a Declaration, affirming their commitment to share information provided to the Flag State related to acts of piracy or armed robbery to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), which would allow to investigate and face with greater clarity the human costs involved in these criminal acts. Furthermore, it will increase the capacity of Marine authorities and organisms to respond with effectiveness to the different actions from pirate attacks.

2. Pirates attacks are classified in four (4) categories:

- 2.1. Attempt: vessels approached by a pirate skiff.
- 2.2. Fired Upon: vessels shot at by pirate groups; pirates unable to board vessel.
- 2.3. Boarded: vessels boarded by pirates, but not hijacked. This category also includes cases when an armed robbery has taken place.
- 2.4 Hijacked: vessels over which pirates successfully gain control; crew is taken hostage.



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3. Through this document we seek to establish the guidelines that shall be followed by ship-owners/Operators, Masters, Company Security Officer, and Legal Representative of Panamanian flagged vessels to report all pirate attacks against Panamanian flagged vessels.

4. This Administration considers that the major obstacle that impedes full assessment of the human cost of piracy is the lack of consistent and transparent reporting on crimes that occur in international waters.

5. The Panama Maritime Authority requires all the Panamanian vessels that have undergone an attack / armed robbery / hijack, to send us application Forms which must be completed by Ship-owners/Operators, Masters, Company Security Officer, and then submitted to the following addresses: asp@amp.gob.pa. Please note these Forms must be forwarded as soon as possible in order to compile information and be able to create measures to protect our vessels against piracy attacks.

- a) Cases in which an attack (attempt) was suffered but did not turned into hijack (robbery/damages) PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY ATTACK REPORT FORM
- b) Cases in which a Hijack took place PIRACY HIJACK FORM

6. As part of the agreement between the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), and the Panama Maritime Authority, we are encouraging our ship owners/operators to complete an online survey (<http://www.icc-ccs.org/seafarer-survey>) for seafarers to understand the Human element on sailing through the high risk waters of piracy and armed robbery. We would highly appreciate if you can take a few minutes to answer some questions in order to gather useful information. These surveys must be submitted directly to IMB.

7. The Merchant Marine Circular 208 provides information on the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC), the Best Management Practices (BMP), the vessels report, and contact points of coordinating Authorities whereby a Panamanian flagged vessel may request advice or assistance when sailing in waters off the coasts of Somalia and to which can be reported any security concern about any other vessels, movements or communications in the area.

8. The goal of the Panama Maritime Authority is to give the Panamanian Flagged vessels and the Maritime Industry the certainty of our interest in achieving a safer transit through these High Risk Areas.



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The contact details are as follows:

**MARITIME SHIPS SECURITY
DEPARTMENT**
501-5350 / 5348 / 5032
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April, 2023 – CANCELLED. This circular is superseded and compiled by the circular MMC-245.

December, 2020 - Change of PMA phone numbers.

September, 2019 - Update of MSC.1/Circ.1406/Rev.3

June, 2019 – Annex PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY ATTACK REPORT FORM and PIRACY HIJACK FORM

January, 2018 – Change of email address

May, 2013 – New point 6 added

May, 2013 – Changes in reference

June, 2012 – Changes in reference

September, 2011.

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

Maritime Ships Security Department
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