

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-234

- To:** Ship-owners / Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panama Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (ROs).
- Subject:** Interim Recommendations for Panamanian Flagged vessels using PCASP while arriving, staying and departing from International Ports.
- Reference:** Law No. 78, of November 15th, 2010 SUA 2005 and SUA PROTOCOL.
MMC 245 - Authorized Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) transiting High Risk Areas (online application).
MMC-208 - Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and Compliance with the Best Management Practices (BMP).
MMC-228 - Use of Armed Security Personnel on board Panama Flagged Vessels (**online application**).
MMC-230 - High Risk Areas (HRA) and precautionary zones.

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform Panama Flagged vessels which use PCASP to take in account the guidelines established on the International Maritime Organization (IMO), MSC.1/Circ.1408/Rev.1, "Interim Recommendations for Port and Coastal States regarding the use of privately contracted armed security Personnel onboard ships in the High Risk Area", (for references visit Maritime Security link, Imo Documents) in order to avoid delays and troubles while arriving, staying and departing from ports, offshore terminals, anchorage or roadstead located areas within the territory or under the jurisdiction of a port or a coastal State.

2. The Panama Maritime Authority by means of MMC-228 and MMC-245, establishes guidelines for the use of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel onboard Panamanian flagged vessels that need such services while transiting through High Risk Areas which are also established in MMC-230.



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3. The Panama Maritime Authority highly recommends also all the PCASC users to review the documents published by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) web page, in the Maritime Security Link, which contains information regarding Port and Coastal State requirements for Private Armed Guards, or contact directly the Port Authorities to comply with all the requirements before the arrival of the vessel to the Port.

4. For further assistance please note below the contact points:

Maritime Ships Security Department

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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.

June, 2019 – Including reference in paragraph 1 through to Maritime Security link. IMO Documents.

January, 2018 - Update of mail

May, 2013 – Changes in point 1,2 and reference

June, 2012 – Changes in reference

December, 2011

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

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