

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-358

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

Subject: Security Measures in Nigerian waters.

Reference: Law No. 38 June 4th, 1995 UNCLOS 1982.
MMC-228 Use of Armed Security Personnel on board Panamanian Flagged Vessels (online application).
MMC-230 High Risk Areas (HRA) and precautionary zones.
MMC-238 Ship Protection Measures for Vessels transiting High Risk Areas.
MMC-286 IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB PRC).
MMC-320 Protection against attacks by pirates in the high-risk area (HRA).

1. The Panama Maritime Authority encourages all Panamanian flagged vessels transiting in Nigerian waters, to increase the security measures on board and 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).

2. 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.

3. Taking account the high number of incidents in Nigerian waters, the INTERTANKO has released the following issues related to security in Nigerian waters:

3.1. The Nigerian Navy has started to station floating operating bases in the Delta and, coupled with a new monitoring process supplied by the US Navy, are able to interdict pirates at a very early stage.

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3.2 The Nigerian Naval is only allowing naval guards to operate in the area onboard the vessels. The armed guards are no longer allowed onboard merchant vessels. Any vessel found with armed guards onboard will be detained and if the guards were from the Navy, they would face sanctions.

3.3 To provide security in Nigerian waters, the Nigerian Navy has entered into agreements with private security companies to supply armed escort vessels. These escort vessels are painted in Nigerian Navy colors, have a Nigerian Navy designation and will be crewed by and under the command of the Navy. Civilian contractors would be onboard to assist in maintenance and other general duties.

3.4 To obtain more information or in case to verify the authenticity of any companies operating under MOUs covering such deployments please contact Mr. Phillip Belcher phillip.belcher@intertanko.com

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

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

Panama City, Republic of Panama

Phone: +507-501-5037 / 5368

E-mail address: asp@amp.gob.pa

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

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>

IMB (International Maritime Bureau) Piracy Reporting Centre

Phone: +603-2031-0014 (manned 24/7 everyday) Fax: +603-2078-5769

E-mail addresses: piracy@icc-ccs.org and IMBKL@icc-ccs.org

Website: <https://icc-ccs.org/piracy-reporting-centre>



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Nigerian Navy WNC (West Naval Command)

Apapa, Lagos, Nigeria

Phone: +234-(803)332-4445 Fax: +1-(921) 428-0362

E-mail address: Info@nnwnc.com

Website: <http://www.navy.mil.ng/>

April, 2023 – CANCELLED. The circular MMC-230 supersedes and compiles this circular.

December, 2020 - Change of PMA phone numbers

January, 2018 - Update of mail

November, 2017

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

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