

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-363

To: Masters, 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: Interim guidance on maritime security in the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb.

Reference: Law No. 38 June 4th, 1995 UNCLOS 1982.
MMC-208 - Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and Compliance with the Best Management Practices (BMP).
MMC-238 Ship Protection Measures for Vessels transiting High Risk Areas.

1. The International Chamber of Shipping, BIMCO and INTERTANKO have published an Interim Guidance on maritime security in the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb. This guidance has been published in response to the conflict in Yemen and the development of maritime threats beyond the threat of piracy in the region, including missiles, sea mines and water-borne improvised explosive devices.

2. The interim guidance is to be read in conjunction with the latest edition of the Best Management Practices BMP, and Global Counter Piracy Guidance for Companies, Masters and Seafarers (please visit Maritime Security link, ANTIPIRACY) and is aimed at assisting Company Security Officers and Masters in conducting a threat assessment in respect of transits through the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb.

3. The Interim Guidance strongly suggests that ships should register with the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) and United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) to ensure that the military is aware of the ship's presence in the region. Furthermore, use of the Maritime Security Transit Corridor (MTSC) is strongly recommended.

Merchant Marine Circular

4. The Ship-owners, Ship-operators, must make sure the crew is familiarized with all the recommendations given in both documents and by this Administration. They must also communicate with crew relatives before transits through the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb in order to make them aware of the transit and must also provide them with the contact on the different organizations which operate in the area so they can communicate with these organizations in case there is a need to do so.

5. Also, all the Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) listed in the MMC 245, must ensure compliance with the Interim Guidance on maritime security in the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb, the Best Management Practices and coordinate with the master and crew that all exercises are planned and conducted on board prior to transits through the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb

6. All inquiries concerning international correspondence must be sent to:

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

June, 2020 – Change of PMA phone numbers.

July, 2019 – Modification of Reference and change in paragraph 2.

June, 2019 - Annex the Interim Guidance on maritime security in the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb and refers in paragraph 2 to Maritime Security link.

July, 2018 –Change in the hyperlink documentation of paragraph No. 2

March, 2018



Merchant Marine Circular

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

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