

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-206

To: Masters, Ship-owners, Operators, Company Security Officers, Ship Security Officers, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates Legal Representative of Panama Flagged Vessels, Recognized Organizations (RO's) and Recognized Security Organizations (RSO's) of Panama Flagged Vessel.

Subject: Recognition of Company Security Officers (CSO).

Reference: Law No. 38 June 4, 1995 UNCLOS 1982.
MMC-124 - Ship Security Assessment (SSA)
MMC-125 - Ship Security Plan (SSP)
MMC-228 - Use of Armed Security Personnel on board Panamanian Flagged Vessels (online application).
MMC-359 - Guidance for the implementation and certification of the ISPS Code.

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1. The purpose of this Circular is to update the responsibilities of the Company Security Officer (CSO) like a person designated by the Company to ensure that a Ship Security Assessment (SSA) is carried out; that a Ship Security Plan (SSP) is developed and submitted for approval, thereafter implemented and maintained, and liaison with Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO) and the Ship Security Officer (SSO).
 2. This Administration urges the Company Security Officers (CSO's) of the Panamanian vessels transiting high-risk areas developing procedures to prepare crews for the contingency of their vessels being hijacked when transiting in high risk areas (MSC.1/Circ.1390) (visit Maritime Security link, IMO Documents).
 3. All the Company Security Officers (CSO) recognized by this Administration has to perform the duties and responsibilities as detailed in Part A, Section 11 and the relevant provisions of Part B, Sections 8, 9 and 13 of the ISPS Code.

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4. The CSO shall ensure that each vessel he or she is responsible for has appointed a trained and qualified SSO.
5. All the Company Security Officers (CSO's) of the Panamanian vessels transiting high-risk areas are hereby requested to maintain a wide communication with the Panama Maritime Authority and to liaise with the International Contact Centers according to the current and most updated BMP version (MMC-208), and raise their Security Level according to the Ship Security Plan.
6. Starting from the September 1st, 2017 the CSO Endorsement online application will be available on the Following website link: <http://certificates.amp.gob.pa/certificates>. After that date, the CSO Application will not be longer received by e-mail and only will be received through the aforementioned Website. We recommend using Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Opera and Safari to get access in the online platform.
7. The information submitted by the online application through the above mentioned website link, should be completely accurate in order to avoid mistake(s) of the information transferred to the CSO. Also have to attach the following documents:
 - Model of Nomination Letter. ([Annex - Letter Head](#)).
 - DOC (Document of Compliance), with copy of annual endorsement if it has taken place.
8. For further details about the use of the online application, a user manual can be found at the website link <http://certificates.amp.gob.pa/certificates>, selecting the button marked as "User Manual". In case of any technical issue when using the online application, feel free to contact us to the e-mail address: isps@amp.gob.pa, or to any of the Segumar offices worldwide
9. This Administration urges all company operators, Company Security officer or the interested party that previous to request the CSO Endorsement it makes sure your CSR is updated and otherwise you must request the issuance of CSR and / or record the amendments in order to proceed with the endorsement.
10. In case of the company operating changes the technical officer should evaluate the application and must request copy of the SMC to verify the change of company operator prior to proceed with the CSO Endorsement.

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11. This Administration kindly informs that according to MMC-368 from August 1st, 2018, the Company Security Officer (CSO) Declaration will be E-Certificates with QR Code that must be printed on board with the specification described in the MMC-368.
12. Starting from September 1st, 2017 all Recognized Security Organizations (RSO) should verify during any ISPS Verifications, that the Company Security Officer designed by the Company Operator, already has the Declaration of Company Security Officer duly endorsement by Panama Maritime Authority and indicate the name of the CSO in the Audit Report in accordance with chapter XI-2 of SOLAS and part A.6 Obligations of the Company of the ISPS code.
13. The Panama Maritime Authority will issue an International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC Full Term) when the RSO carried out the verification, complies with the requirements established by this MMC-359 and when the company has obtained the CSO endorsement previously with PMA.
14. If the information reflected in the ISSC and CSR Certificates does not match with the DOC presented to the Recognition of the CSO the Shipowners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, need to amend those Certificates as soon as possible to avoid any PSC detention.

For further assistance, please note below the contact points.

August, 2023 – CANCELLED.

May, 2022 – Modification paragraph 10.

August, 2021 - Inclusion new paragraph in point 9.

May, 2021 – Modification paragraph 8 and 11 and including paragraph 9 and Modification of the Model of Nomination Letter.

January, 2021 – Hyperlink activated in paragraph 7 - Model of Nomination Letter.

December, 2020 – Modification paragraph # 8 and Change of PMA phone numbers.

June, 2019 - Refers in paragraph 2 to Maritime Security link, IMO Documents, and Annex Model of Nomination Letter.

July, 2018 – Inclusion of new paragraph in point 6.

September, 2017- Modification of point 6

July, 2017 – Inclusion of bullets in paragraph 6.

March, 2017- inclusion new paragraph in point 7 and Modification in bullets of point 8, 9.

March, 2017 – Modification of point 6

August, 2016 - Modification in bullets of point 6 and modification of point 8.



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September, 2014 – Modification of points 6, 8 and replacement of hyperlink on point 6.

May, 2013 – New points 3 and 4

March, 2012 – Changes in bullets of point 4

September, 2011 – Complete revision of content and Form

May, 2011 - Change in Phone Number

March, 2010

September, 2003.

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

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