



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

MERCHANT MARINE NOTICE

Private Maritime Security Companies Requirements and Obligations

PanCanal Building
Albrook, Panama City
Republic of Panama
Tel: (507) 501-5348
mmc@amp.gob.pa

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The purpose of this Marine Notice is to unify into a single document the requirements and obligations of all Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) recognised by the Panama Maritime Authority.

1. Authorisation for Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) ([MMC 243](#))

The Panama Maritime Authority establishes requirements for the PMSC to apply to become authorised by this Administration by means of Res.No.106-13-DGMM (available in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#)) and [Res.No.106-85-DGMM](#) (available in [Spanish](#)).

The Applications from the PMSC must be submitted to the Directorate General of Merchant Marine through a Legal Representative in Panama

2. Official Fees payable by PMSC ([MMC 305](#))

Article 1 of Resolution JD No. 038-2014 establishes the following fees:

a. Fee for PMSC applying for authorisation to the Panama Maritime Authority
..... US\$1,000.00

This payment must be made by certified cheque payable to the Maritime Authority of Panama. It is non-refundable and must be paid at the time of lodging the application by the Legal Representative.

b. Annual Fee to the Private Security Companies
US\$5,000.00

For those PMSC approved **before** 31st December 2014

The payment of the Annual Fee must be paid in advance on or before January 31 of each year.

For those PMSC approved **after** 31st December 2014,

The payment of the First Annual Fee must be paid no later than one (1) month after their approval.

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Thereafter, the PMSC must pay their Annual fee not later than their anniversary date, which is determined by the date of their initial PMSC approval by the Panama Maritime Authority. This date can be found on their Resolution Authorisation.

All payments can be made at the offices of the Panama Maritime Authority and the Merchant Marine Consulates in good time in order to avoid their withdrawal of the authorisation granted, with immediate suspension through a Statement of Objections.

3. Official Fees payable for MULTIPLE ACCREDITATION ([MMC 338](#))

The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to officially communicate that on 4th October 2016, was published in the Official Gazette, the [Resolution No. 106-74-DGMM dated 15th September, 2016](#) (in spanish) whereby the Panama Maritime Authority establishes a system of **Multiple Accreditation for Private Security Companies** wishing to be authorized as affiliates, subsidiaries or companies subject to administrative control that are part of economic groups to provide service voluntary use of armed or disarmed on board Panamanian flagged vessels, which exclusively transit high risk area of piracy attacks and armed robbery staff.

Article 1 of [Resolution JD No. 053-2016](#) establishes the following fees:

A. Handling fee under Multiple Accreditation System for Private Security Companies that wish to be authorized..... **B / 1000.00**

This payment must be made by certified check in favor of the Panama Maritime Authority, nonrefundable presented at time of application.

B. Annuity rate under Multiple Accreditation System applicable to Approved Security Companies that wish to be authorized..... **B / 1000.00**

This payment shall be made no later than one (1) month after the date it is executed the resolution that gives its authorization, so that the authorization granted is not revoked with immediate suspension through a Statement of Objections.

Once approved these companies, the second and subsequent payments for the annuity rate, should be made the following year, by reference to the date on which became final resolution that gives its authorization, so that it will not be revoked with immediate suspension through statement of objections.

Thereafter, the PMSC must pay their Annual fee not later than their anniversary date, which is determined by the date of their initial PMSC approval by the Panama Maritime Authority.

This date can be found on their Resolution Authorization. All payments can be made at the offices of the Panama Maritime Authority and the Merchant Marine Consulates in good time in order to avoid their withdrawal of the authorization granted, with immediate suspension through a Statement of Objections.

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4. Authorized PMSC transiting High Risk Areas [\(MMC 228\)](#)

The Panama Maritime Authority has recognised and listed in the Merchant Marine Circular (MMC 245) the PMSC which are authorized to offer security and armed or unarmed personnel on board the Panamanian flag vessels to transit exclusively in High Risk Areas.

From January 3rd, 2013, only the companies listed on MMC 245 are authorized to provide Security Services onboard Panamanian vessels. **It is strictly forbidden for approved PMSC to enter into Joint Venture Contracts with unauthorized companies to provide maritime security services on board Panamanian flagged vessels.**

For cases in which a Port Authority requires, this Administration will issue an authorisation after receiving:

- a- Bilateral Agreement signed by the parties with the company stamp.
- b- Passport copies of the guards that will embark the vessel.

However, PMSC are encouraged to notify in advance to this Administration of any transit, including details of embarkation and disembarkation of their security personnel, including name of vessel, IMO number and the geographical position (latitude and longitude). This notification should be done through a message to the e-mail address asp@amp.gob.pa

5. Security Personnel and Weapons listed by PMSC [\(MMC 306\)](#)

All PMSC must keep an updated list at the Maritime Ships Security Department involving any changes of either personnel or inventory of weapons (replacements, exclusions or inclusions of personnel and/or weapons).

In case of any change related to **security personnel**, the list must include: name, nationality, and passport number of the security personnel. In case of any changes related to **weapons**, the list should include: type, manufacturer, caliber, serial number and category. These lists must be lodged in hard copy at the offices of the Administration by the Legal Representative of the PMSC.

The privately contracted armed security personnel authorized by the General Directorate of Merchant Marine has to be enrolled in Panamanian flag vessels as **supernumerary** in order to avoid any problem with the port and coastal state.

In cases where the security company embarks **eight (8) or more weapons** per transit, the request to carry armed personnel onboard must have the approval of the owners, operators and/or charterers through an email of authorisation stating that such number of weapons will remain onboard during the specific transit.

Before embarkation all PMSC must ensure that their team holds an authorisation document (email, letter, etc.) issued by the owner and/or operator and/or charterers and/or this Administration

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6. Navy authorisation ([MMC 228](#))

In case of any ship calling at Port that requires the presence of the Navy on board, the operator should only send an email to asp@amp.gob.pa indicating the Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) and the Estimated Time of Departure (ETD) to the Port and the reasons for the Navy's presence on board.

7. PCASP REPORT PER TRANSIT ([MMC 245](#))

All PMSC must submit the [PCASP Report](#) duly filled and signed with details of the service before the security teams disembark from the vessel to asp@amp.gob.pa

These reports will be verified against the PMSC Annual Report, failure to submit the PCASP Report may incur the PMSC to be suspended.

8. PMSC ANNUAL REPORT ([MMC 245](#))

All PMSC must send as required by the General Directorate of Merchant Marine an **ANNUAL REPORT** with the information requested by this Administration. Failure to present the Annual Report will result in the withdrawal and cancellation of the authorisation granted.

9. LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE IN PANAMA

All PMSC are obliged to maintain a Legal Representative in Panama, as per Article 9 and 10 of the [Resolution Number 106-13-DGMM of 8 March 2012](#) issued by DGMM of the AMP and published on Official Gazette number 77088-A of 4 April 2012).

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Marine Notice or any request should be directed to:

Maritime Ships Security Department
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority
Phone: (507) 501-5037/5256/5368
Email: asp@amp.gob.pa

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