

# Merchant Marine Circular

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

## MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC- 243

**To:** Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Private Security Companies, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (ROs).

**Subject:** Authorization for Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC).

**Reference:** Resolution No.106-13-DGMM of March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012.  
Resolution No.106-74-DGMM of September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.  
MMC.228 - Use of Armed Security Personnel on board Panamanian Flagged Vessels (online application).

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1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to officially communicate that on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 was published in the Official Gazette, the Resolution No.106-13-DGMM, dated March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012, whereby the Panama Maritime Authority establishes requirements for the Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) to meet, in order to become authorized by this Administration. On December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 a new Resolution was published establishing new requirements in order to become an authorized Private Maritime Security Company, Resolution No.106-85-DGMM, dated December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

2. This Administration encourages all Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) to comply with the requirements listed on Resolution No.106-13-DGMM and additional requirements listed on Resolution No.106-85-DGMM, to be able to offer their services of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel onboard Panamanian flagged vessels. Furthermore, please be advised that Res.No.106-13-DGMM is available in English and in Spanish. Also available Res.No.106-85-DGMM, in Spanish (visit Maritime Security link, Panama Regulations).

3. The Applications from the Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) must be submitted to the Directorate General of Merchant Marine through a Legal Representative in Panama.



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4. Starting on January 2019, all Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) must comply and present updated the standard on quality management to ISO 9001:2015/ ISO PAS.

5. The Panama Maritime Authority shall not issue authorizations for vessels contracting services from companies which are not duly authorized by this Administration as per MMC 245. Only companies listed in our circular MMC 245 are authorized to give Security Services. It is strictly forbidden to celebrate Joint Venture Contracts between unauthorized companies to provide services on board Panamanian flagged vessels.

6. The exchange of arms and personnel between a company authorized by this Administration and an unapproved company is totally prohibited. If any of this activity is carried out, the company is responsible for any infringement.

*June, 2020- Change of PMA phone numbers.*

*September, 2019 - Update of reference MSC. 1/Circ. 1406/Rev.3*

*June 2019 - Refers in paragraph 2 to Maritime Security link, Panama Regulations.*

*July, 2018 – Inclusion of new paragraph 4 and 6.*

*December, 2014 - New Resolution*

*August, 2014 – Changes in paragraph 4*

*May, 2013 – Changes in Reference, Paragraph 1, 2 and 4.*

*December, 2012 – Change in point 4*

*October, 2012 – Change of date in point 4*

*June, 2012 – Change in reference*

*April, 2012.*

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

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