



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
(AUTORIDAD MARÍTIMA DE PANAMÁ)
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF MERCHANT MARINE
(DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MARINA MERCANTE)
DEPARTMENT OF CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE
(DEPARTAMENTO DE CONTROL Y CUMPLIMIENTO)**

F-265
(DCCM)
V.00



MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-252

To: Shipowners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Security Organizations (RO's).

Subject: Stowaways Prevention of Access

**Reference: ISPS Code Part A and B Sections 7, 8, 9,10,12,13
Resolution Fal.11 (37)
Resolution Fal.7 (29)
Resolution A.1027 (26)
Resolution A.871 (20)
Resolution MSC. 312(88)**

1. This Circular has the purpose to inform that this Administration urges Ship-owners, operators, masters, companies of Panamanian flagged vessels to implement the necessary security measures to prevent stowaway's access either at sea or on arrival. When a stowaway is discovered, this indicates a failure in the implementation of the Ship Security Plan (SSP).
2. A stowaway is a person who is secreted on a ship, or in cargo which is subsequently loaded on the ship, without the consent of the ship-owner, master or any other responsible person and who is detected on board the ship after it has departed from a port, or in the cargo while unloading it in the port of arrival, and is reported as a stowaway by the master to the appropriate authorities.
3. Owners, operators, masters and Recognized Organizations (RO's) of Panamanian flagged vessels are reminded that the Panama Administration has to be informed whenever stowaways are found onboard in order to authorize an additional verification of the SSP by the RO's.
4. All Panamanian flagged vessels when calling ports and during their stay in ports, where there is risk of a stowaway embarkation, must implement preventive measures, as follows but not limited to:
 - a). All doors, hatches and means of access to holds or stores, which are not used during the ship's stay in port should be locked;
 - b). Access points to the ship should be kept to a minimum and be adequately secured;
 - c). Areas seaward of the ship should be adequately secured;
 - d). Adequate deck watch should be kept;
 - e). Boardings and disembarkations should, where possible, be tallied by the ship's crew or, after agreement with the master, by others;

f). Adequate means of communication should be maintained; and

g). At night, adequate lighting should be maintained both inside and along the hull.

5. When a stowaway is found on board a ship, the responsibility of the Master and the Shipowner is:

a). To determine immediately the port of embarkation of the stowaway;

b). To establish the identity, including the nationality/citizenship and residence of the stowaway;

c). To prepare a statement containing all available information relevant to the stowaway for presentation to the appropriate authorities at the port of embarkation, the next port of call, flag State and any subsequent ports. In this respect should be used and completed the following **STOWAWAYS INCIDENT REPORT** (See Annex);

d). To ensure that stowaways are not forced to work on board the ship, except in emergency situations or in relation to the stowaway's accommodation on board;

e). To ensure that stowaways are treated humanely, consistent with the basic principles.

f). To comply with any removal directions made by the competent national authorities at the port of disembarkation;

g).To cover any applicable costs related to the removal, detention, treatment and disembarkation of the stowaway in accordance to the legislation of the States which may be involved.

h). Not to depart from the planned voyage to seek the disembarkation of a stowaway discovered on board the ship after it has left the territorial waters of the State where the stowaways embarked unless permission to disembark the stowaway has been granted by the public authorities of the State to whose port the ship deviates, or repatriation has been arranged elsewhere with sufficient documentation and permission given for disembarkation.

6. For reference and use take into account the Revised Guidelines on the Prevention of access by Stowaways and the allocation of Responsibilities to seek the successful resolution of the Stowaway cases. (Resolution Fal.11(37) adopted on 9 September 2011) (For reference visit Maritime Security Link, IMO Documents).

7. Once all requirements are met, they shall be submitted to the following email address: isps@amp.gob.pa, or through any of the SEGUMAR offices worldwide according to Merchant Marine Circular 242.

October, 2019 – Exclusion in paragraph 3 to the MMC 207.

June 2019 – Refers to paragraph 5 point c to the STOWAWAYS Incident Report Annex and the Revised Guidelines described in paragraph 6 to Maritime Security Link, IMO Documents.

August, 2012

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

General Directorate of Merchant Marine

Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: +507 501-5010

Fax: +507-501-5011

Albrook, Panama City

Republic of Panama

Tel: (507) 501-5355 mmc@amp.gob.pa