

Merchant Marine Circular

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

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-349

- To:** Master, Ship-owners, Operators, Company Security Officers, Ship Security Officers, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates, and Recognized Security Organizations (RSO's) of Panamanian Flagged Vessel.
- Subject:** Imperative Anti-Piracy security measurements to be taken in urgent Basis.
- Reference:** Law No. 38 June 4th, 1995 UNCLOS 1982.
MMC-133 SHIP SECURITY ALERT SYSTEM (SSAS).
MMC-208 Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and Compliance with the Best Management Practices (BMP).
MMC-230 High Risk Areas (HRA) and precautionary zones.
MMC-238 Ship Protection Measures for Vessels transiting High Risk Areas.
MMC-286 IMB PIRACY REPORTING CENTRE (IMB PRC).
MMC-320 PROTECTION AGAINST ATTACKS BY PIRATES IN THE HIGH RISK AREA (HRA).
MMC-327 Security Measures sailing in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG).

1. The Panama Maritime Authority strongly recommends to all the ship owners and operators of the Panamanian flagged vessels to keep the proper anti-piracy security measures on board in order to reduce the likelihood of being attacked by pirates. The level of threat in the hot spots for piracy attacks i.e. Gulf of Guinea and Gulf of Aden (off Somalia) have been risen in the last days, according to the intelligence reports; which have been also supported by a recent speech given by the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

2. The Administration urges Companies, Company Security Officers (CSO), Ship Security Officers (SSO) and Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) of Panamanian flagged vessels to implement the necessary security measures described in the latest edition of the Best Management Practices BMP, before, during and after the transit through High Risk Areas.



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3. All the Panamanian flagged vessels whether using or not the services of Private Maritime Security Companies should maintain a wide communication with the Administration and to liaise with the International Contact Centers according to the BMP in order to counter piracy in the High Risk Areas of the Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and any other Region of High Risk, as determined by this Administration before, during and after the transit.

4. For this reason, we strongly encourage to all the Panamanian flagged vessels to complete and submit the "Vessel Position Reporting Form" to UMKTO, and the "Vessel Movement Registration Form" to MSCHOA, both described in the latest edition of the Best Management Practices (BMP) prior to entering the High Risk Area, including the International Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC).

5. In this sense you will find all our recommendations e.g. High Risk Areas (HRA) and precautionary zones, Security Measures sailing in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG), IMB Piracy Reporting Centre, IRTC and the latest edition of the Best Management Practices (BMP) among others in the Merchant Marine Circulars mentioned as reference of this document.

6. The Panama Maritime Authority encourage all Operators, CSO and Owners of Panamanian flag vessels, to contact the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Piracy Reporting Center 24/7, in case of any incident of piracy or armed robbery that occurs in any part of the country world. The information received is important in order to be able to alert the response agencies in the region to take action as well as raise awareness for other ships in the vicinity by broadcasting via Inmarsat Safety Net Service.

IMB

Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC)

Tel: +(60 3) 2078 5763 / 2031 0287 / 2031 3106

24 Hrs ANTI PIRACY HELPLINE: + 60 3 2031 0014 (Manned 24 Hrs everyday)

Fax: + 60 3 2078 5769

General E-mail: imbkl@icc-ccs.org <<mailto:imbkl@icc-ccs.org>>

Piracy E-mail: piracy@icc-ccs.org <<mailto:piracy@icc-ccs.org>>

Also, we exhorted the Captains of the vessels that the above information from the Piracy Report Center be placed in areas where there is communication such as the bridge, the engine room, citadel, among others.



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7. This Administration informs that the Information Fusion Center - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), is functioning as an information sharing hub for sense-making of maritime data and cuing incident responses to Maritime Security situations through a collaborative approach, the Center has already established linkages with more than 25 countries and agencies including various established maritime constructs.

To continuously develop information exchange relationships with relevant stakeholders so as to contribute towards keeping the seas safe and secure for all Panamanian Flag Vessels, we exhort to contact:

**Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)
Naval Transmitting Station**

Sohna Road, Sector - 33, Gurugram - 122 001

Email: ifc-ior.gurugram@navy.gov.in

Tel: (+91) 124 -2208385, Fax - (+91) 124 -2209385

Website: <https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/ifc-ior/index.html>

8. For further assistance and/or inquiries please note the following contact points:

Maritime Ships Security Department (weekdays 08:30-16:30 hrs local time)

Phone: +507-501-5037/5368

E-mail address: asp@amp.gob.pa

SEGUMAR Panama (Evenings, Weekends and Holidays)

Phone: +507-501-5350/48 or +507-501-5032

E-mail address: authorizations@segumar.com

June, 2020 - Change of PMA phone numbers.

June, 2019 – Updated of paragraph number 6 and inclusion of paragraph number 7.

November, 2018 – Modification of BMP last version.

January, 2018 - Update of mail

March, 2017 – New Circular



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

Maritime Ships Security Department
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 5037/5368

E-mail: asp@amp.gob.pa / nardila@amp.gob.pa

Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/circulars/>