



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
**MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-349**

PanCanal Building  
Albrook, Panama City  
Republic of Panama  
Tel: (507) 501-5355  
[mmc@amp.gob.pa](mailto:mmc@amp.gob.pa)

**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.

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**Subject:** Imperative Anti-Piracy security measurements to be taken in urgent basis.

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**Reference:** SOLAS 74/78 Chapter XI-2  
MMC-133  
MMC-208  
MMC-230  
MMC-238  
MMC-286  
MMC-320  
MMC-327

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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).

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.

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.

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).

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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 BMP4 among others in the Merchant Marine Circulars mentioned as reference of this document.

Additionally, please find the contact list of the Piracy Reporting Centre in case of need to request advice or assistance and/or report a security incident when sailing through the waters of the above mentioned places in the following website link:

<http://www.segumar.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Piracy-Reporting-Centre.pdf>

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

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

Phone: +507-501-5020

E-mail address: [threat@amp.gob.pa](mailto:threat@amp.gob.pa)

**B. SEGUMAR Panama (Evenings, Weekends and Holidays)**

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

E-mail address: [authorizations@segumar.com](mailto:authorizations@segumar.com)

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