



Technical Circular

No.: 143/2017

Date: 1st December 2017

To whomsoever it may concern

Subject: Panama circular on Instructions and Procedure for the implementation and certification of the ISPS Code.

- Panama maritime authority has issued new circular MMC- 359 regarding implementation of ISPS code on board Panamanian flagged vessel engaged on international voyages.
- The earlier issued circulars MMC-145, MMC-207 and MMC -326 will no longer be applicable from 1st April 2018.
- The Salient points of the circular are as follows:
 1. The company must ensure that company Security Officer (**CSO**) has “Declaration of the CSO “duly endorsed by the Panama Maritime Authority, prior to carry out the interim, initial, intermediate or renewal verification.
 2. Vessel registered in to panama flag from **January 1st, 2018**, must schedule the first SSAS TEST through the use of the new platform, and same will be verified by RSO during the initial verification and from that date onwards, every 12 months the CSO should program the next SSAS test.
 3. If for a special circumstance the ISPS verification cannot be completed within the window established in the ISPS Code Part A/19.1.1, the company operator **must** request an ISPS authorization to administration to postpone the ISPS verification **prior to the expiration** of the interim ISSC or **prior to the expiration** of due date of intermediate or renewal verifications window.
 4. The company operator **must apply for the Full Term ISSC**, after completed the initial or renewal verification, and submit all the requirements of the MMC-205, prior to expiration of the ISSC interim or short term ISSC (when applies).
 5. The name of the Company Security Officer (**CSO**) and contact details to be identified in the Ship Security Plan (**SSP**).
 6. In case of changes to the CSO and/or the alternate CSO, the Ship Security Plans (SSP) must be amended accordingly to contain the details of the new CSO and/or alternate CSO and must have the Declaration of the CSO duly endorsed by the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) on board of the vessel.

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7. Vessel to have updated continuous Synopsis record, in case there is no CSR on board; an observation will be raised by auditor in order for the company operator to request the CSR, according to the (MMC-183).
- Ship owners / operators and masters are advised to be guided by above.

Enclosure:

1. Panama Merchant Marine Circular MMC-359

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