



**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-363**

**To:** Masters, Ship-owners, Operators, Company Security Officers, Ship Security Officers, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates Legal Representative of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Recognized Organizations (RO's) and Recognized Security Organizations (RSO's) of Panamanian Flagged Vessel.

**Subject:** Interim guidance on maritime security in the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb.

**Reference:** IMO MSC.1/Circ.1339 - Best Management Practices for Protection against Somalia Based Piracy.  
IMO SN.1/Circular.281 - Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC), August 03, 2009.  
Merchant Marine Circular No. 208  
Merchant Marine Circular No. 238

1. The International Chamber of Shipping, BIMCO and INTERTANKO have published an [Interim Guidance on maritime security in the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb](#). This guidance has been published in response to the conflict in Yemen and the development of maritime threats beyond the threat of piracy in the region, including missiles, sea mines and water-borne improvised explosive devices.
2. The interim guidance is to be read in conjunction with the latest edition of the [Best Management Practices BMP](#) and is aimed at assisting Company Security Officers and Masters in conducting a threat assessment in respect of transits through the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb.
3. The Interim Guidance strongly suggests that ships should register with the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) and United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) to ensure that the military is aware of the ship's presence in the region. Furthermore, use of the Maritime Security Transit Corridor (MTSC) is strongly recommended.
4. The Ship-owners, Ship-operators, must make sure the crew is familiarized with all the recommendations given in both documents and by this Administration. They must also communicate with crew relatives before transits through the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb in order to make them aware of the transit and must also provide them with the contact on the different organizations which operate in the area so they can communicate with these organizations in case there is a need to do so.

5. Also, all the Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) listed in the MMC 245, must ensure compliance with the Interim Guidance on maritime security in the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb, the Best Management Practices and coordinate with the master and crew that all exercises are planned and conducted on board prior to transits through the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb
6. All inquiries concerning international correspondence must be sent to:

**MARITIME SHIPS SECURITY DEPARTMENT**

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*July, 2018 –Change in the hyperlink documentation of paragraph No. 2*

*March, 2018*

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

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