



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-238

PanCanal Building
Albrook, Panama City
Republic of Panama
Tel: (507) 501-5000
segumar@segumar.com

To: **Ship-owners/Operators, Company Security Officers, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Panamanian Merchant Marine Consulates and Recognized Organizations (ROs).**

Subject: **Ship Protection Measures for Vessels transiting High Risk Areas.**

Reference **MSC. 1/CIRC. 1390**
 MSC. 1/CIRC. 1339
 Merchant Marine Circular No. 206
 Merchant Marine Circular No. 208
 Merchant Marine Circular No. 228
 Merchant Marine Circular No. 230

1. The Administration urges Companies, Company Security Officers (CSO) and Ship Security Officers (SSO) of Panamanian flagged vessels to implement the necessary security measures described in the latest edition of the Best Management Practices [BMP](#) , prior to transiting High Risk Areas.

2. The use of Best Management Practices should be reviewed by the crew prior to entering high-risk areas. The implementation of BMP could include, but is not limited to the following:

- a) Watchkeeping and Enhanced Vigilance;
- b) Effective use of monitoring and/or surveillance equipment;
- c) Maneuvering practice;
- d) Alarm or Alerts systems to demonstrate awareness to any potential attacker;
- e) Use of deck lighting and illumination to demonstrate awareness to any potential attacker;

<i>Prepared by: Translator</i>	<i>Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief</i>	<i>Approved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i>
<i>Control N°: F-RIN-04-01</i>	<i>Version: 03</i>	<i>Date: 06 July, 2011</i>
		Page 1 of 2

- f) Denial of use of ship's tools and equipment, and protection of equipment stored on the upper deck;
- g) Control of Access to Bridge, Accommodation and Machinery Spaces and Physical Barriers;
- h) Other equipment used for self-defense; and
- i) Safe-Muster Points and Citadels, if determined appropriate.

3. All ship-owners and ship-operators signing a contract with a Private Maritime Security Company (PMSC) should ensure compliance with Best Management Practices and coordinate with the master and crew that all exercises are planned and conducted on board prior to entering the High Risk Area.

4. All Panamanian flagged vessels should maintain a wide communication with the Administration and to liase 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.

5. All inquiries concerning international correspondence must be sent to the Maritime Ship Security Department to the following e-mail address:

threat@amp.gob.pa

Monday to Friday

Phones (+507) 501-4224 / 5037 / 5028

authorizations@segumar.com

Weekends and Holidays

Phones (+507) 501-5350 / 5348 / 5032

April, 2012

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

Directorate General of Merchant Marine

Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5033

Fax: (507) 501-5083

<i>Prepared by: Translator</i>	<i>Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief</i>	<i>Approved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i>
<i>Control N°: F-RIN-04-01</i>	<i>Version: 03</i>	<i>Date: 06 July, 2011</i>
		Page 2 of 2