



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
**MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-234**

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

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**Subject:** Interim Recommendations for Panamanian Flagged vessels using PCASP while arriving, staying and departing from International Ports

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<b>Reference:</b>	MSC.1/Circ.1405/ Rev.2	MMC 208
	MSC.1/Circ. 1406/ Rev.2	MMC 228
	MSC.1/Circ. 1443	MMC 230
	MSC.1/Circ.1408/Rev.1	MMC 245

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1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform Panamanian Flagged vessels which use PCASP to take in account the guidelines established on the International Maritime Organization (IMO), [MSC.1/Circ.1408/Rev.1](#), “Interim Recommendations for Port and Coastal States regarding the use of Privately contracted armed security Personnel on board ships in the High Risk Area”, in order to avoid delays and troubles while arriving, staying and departing from ports, offshore terminals, anchorage or roadstead located areas within the territory or under the jurisdiction of a port or a coastal State.

2. The Panama Maritime Authority by means of MMC.228 and MMC 245, establishes guidelines for the use of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel onboard Panamanian flagged vessels that need such services while transiting through High Risk Areas which are also established in MMC.230.

3. The Panama Maritime Authority highly recommends also all the PCASC users to review the documents published by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) web page, in the *Maritime Security Link*, which contains information regarding Port and Coastal State requirements for Private Armed Guards, or contact directly the Port Authorities to comply with all the requirements before the arrival of the vessel to the Port.

4. For further assistance please note below the contact points:

**Maritime Ships Security Department**

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**Evenings, Weekends & Holidays**

**May, 2013** – Changes in point 1,2 and reference

**June, 2012** – Changes in reference

**December, 2011**

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

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**Directorate General of Merchant Marine**

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