



## PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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

### MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-126

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**To:** Master, Shipowners, Operators, Company Security Officers, Ship Security Officer, Legal Representatives of Panamanian Flagged Vessels, Recognized Organizations (RO's) of Panamanian Flagged Vessel.

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**Subject:** Ship Security Officers

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**Reference:** SOLAS 74 /78 Chapter XI-2  
Section 12 Part A and Section 13 Part B to the ISPS Code  
MSC.1/Circ.1334 June 23, 2009  
MMC 123  
MMC 125  
MMC 128

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1. The purpose of this Circular is to update the responsibilities of the Ship Security officer (SSO) as a person designated by the Company Security Officer (CSO) who is responsible for the security of the ship, including implementation and maintenance of the ship security plan and for liaison with the Company Security Officer (CSO), Port Facility Security Officer and this Administration.

2. According to Part A, Section 12 and Part B, Section 13 the SSO shall have the knowledge of, and receive formal training in the elements of Part B, Section 13.1, and specific Company training in the elements of Part B, Section 13.2, of the Code.

2. All Panamanian flagged vessels engaged in international voyages in which the ISPS Code applies, must have on board a Ship Security Officer (SSO) shall be a management level officer. It is highly recommended to give this duty to the Master, Chief Officer, Chief Engineer or Second Engineer, who shall have completed an approved training course regarding the requirements and recommendations of the ISPS Code. If the person designated is not the Master, it must be understood that the Master still holds overall responsibility for the security of the ship which cannot be relinquished.

3. All the Ship Security Officer (SSO) of Panamanian flagged vessels are hereby requested to maintain wide communication with the Company Security Officer (CSO) in order to comply with the measures established in the Ship Security Plan.

4. This Administration urges all Panamanian flagged vessels transiting high-risk areas or operating in ports where piracy attacks occur to carry out a security assessment as a preparation for development of measures to prevent attacks of pirates or armed robbers and on how to react should an attack occur [MSC.1/1334](#)

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

<i>Prepared by: Translator</i>	<b>Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief</b>	<i>Aproved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i>
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**Maritime Ships Security Department**

Phone (507)501-5037/5085

Fax (507)501-4202

Email: [isps@amp.gob.pa](mailto:isps@amp.gob.pa)

**June, 2013** - *Changes all throughout the text*  
**September, 2003**

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

**Maritime Ships Security Department**

**Directorate General of Merchant Marine**

**Panama Maritime Authority**

**Phone: (507) 501-4224 / 5037**

**Fax: (507) 501-5401**

**Email:** [nardila@amp.gob.pa](mailto:nardila@amp.gob.pa)  
[taranda@amp.gob.pa](mailto:taranda@amp.gob.pa)

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