



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-231

PanCanal Building
Albrook, Panama City
Republic of Panama
Tel: (507) 501-5348
jortega@segumar.com

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

Subject: Piracy Reports

Reference: MSC.1/Circ.1405/Rev. 2
MSC.1/Circ. 1406/Rev. 2
MSC.1/Circ.1333
MSC.1/Circ.1334
MMC 197
MMC 208

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to inform you that last August 3rd, 2011 the Panama Maritime Authority together with the Marine Administrations of Liberia and the Marshall Islands signed a Declaration, affirming their commitment to share information provided to the Flag State related to acts of piracy or armed robbery to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), which would allow to investigate and face with greater clarity the human costs involved in these criminal acts. Furthermore, it will increase the capacity of Marine authorities and organisms to respond with effectiveness to the different actions from pirate attacks.

2. Pirates attacks are classified in four (4) categories:

2.1. *Attempt*: vessels approached by a pirate skiff.

2.2. *Fired Upon*: vessels shot at by pirate groups; pirates unable to board vessel.

2.3. *Boarded*: vessels boarded by pirates, but not hijacked. This category also includes cases when an armed robbery has taken place.

2.4 *Hijacked*: vessels over which pirates successfully gain control; crew is taken hostage.

3. Through this document we seek to establish the guidelines that shall be followed by ship-owners/Operators, Masters, Company Security Officer, Legal Representative of Panamanian flagged vessels to report all pirate attacks against Panamanian flagged vessels.

4. This Administration considers that the major obstacle that impedes full assessment of the human cost of piracy is the lack of consistent and transparent reporting on crimes that occur in international waters.

<i>Prepared by: Translator</i>	<i>Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief</i>	<i>Aproved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i>	
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5. The Panama Maritime Authority requires all the Panamanian vessels that have undergone an attack / armed robbery / hijack, to send us application Forms which must be completed by Ship-owners/Operators, Masters, Company Security Officer, and then submitted to the following addresses: threat@amp.gob.pa or isps@amp.gob.pa. Please note these Forms must be forwarded as soon as possible in order to compile information and be able to create measures to protect our vessels against piracy attacks.

a) Cases in which an attack (attempt) was suffered but did not turned into hijack (robbery/damages) **[PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY ATTACK REPORT FORM](#)**

b) Cases in which a Hijack took place **[PIRACY HIJACK FORM](#)**

6. The Merchant Marine Circular 208 provides information on the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC), the Best Management Practices (BMP), the vessels report, and contact points of coordinating Authorities whereby a Panamanian flagged vessel may request advice or assistance when sailing in waters off the coasts of Somalia and to which can be reported any security concern about any other vessels, movements or communications in the area.

7. The goal of the Panama Maritime Authority is to give the Panamanian Flagged vessels and the Maritime Industry the certainty of our interest in achieving a safer transit through these High Risk Areas.

The contact details are as follows:

MARITIME SHIPS SECURITY DEPARTMENT

Tel (507) 501-5037/4224
 Fax (507) 501-4202
 Email: nardila@amp.gob.pa
threat@amp.gob.pa,
isps@amp.gob.pa

SEGUMAR PANAMA

(+507) 501-5350 / 5348 / 5032
authorizations@segumar.com
**Evenings, Weekends and
 Holidays.**

May, 2013 – *Changes in reference*
June, 2012 – *Changes in reference*
September, 2011

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
taranda@amp.gob.pa

<i>Prepared by: Translator</i>	<i>Revised by: Compliance and Enforcement Deputy Chief</i>	<i>Aproved by: Compliance and Enforcement Chief</i>
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