

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

Ministry of Finance and Treasury

Office of the Directorate of Merchant Marine Circular No. 42

Consular and Maritime Affairs

To: Masters of Panamanian Vessels
Subject: Stowage and Securing of Containers, Unitized Cargo and Vehicles

Several serious marine casualties have occurred in recent years which can be attributed to the unsafe securing of cargo units on board.

Such units are typically wheeled cargo, containers, flats, pallets, portable tanks and vehicles carried on board ro-ro ships and cargo vessels other than cellular containerhips.

This Administration stresses the importance that all units of cargo, and especially heavy or bulky ones, are properly secured so as to withstand the foreseeable forces and accelerations they will be subjected to during the intended voyages. when necessary, portable securing gear lashed to fixed strong points of the vessel must be used. Such gear must be of sufficient strength to prevent tipping and sliding of cargo.

Appropriate organizations or experts should be contacted to advise on the most adequate securing patterns for typical loads to be carried by the vessel. When in doubt, the Master should refuse to take on board cargoes which cannot be properly secured.

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