



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
International Representative Office, N.Y.

Merchant Marine Circular No. 132

To: Shipowners/Operators, Masters, Legal Representatives, Recognized Security Organizations

Subject: ISPS CODE ENTRY INTO FORCE

References: SOLAS 74 (2002 Amendments)
The International Code for the Security of Ships and Port Facilities (ISPS Code)

The amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) adopted by the Conference of SOLAS Contracting Governments on December 12, 2002, are due to enter into force on July 1st, 2004.

In this regard, shipowners and all those involved in the ISPS implementation process are **strongly urged** to redouble their efforts to ensure compliance with the new maritime security measures, whose dispositions become mandatory on July 1st of this year.

In order to avoid any repercussions to Ships, shipping companies, port facilities and international shipborne trade, all parties involved must play an active role in the ISPS Code implementation.

The Panama Maritime Authority reiterates all information contained in Merchant Marine Circular No.131 (revised), which details the procedures to follow by all parties concerned in the implementation process and strongly urges all those involved to comply at the earliest possible date.

The Maritime Security Department, has established a cut-off date as of May 1st, 2004 for the submission of ship security plans (SSP) in order to guarantee a proper implementation of the ISPS. This measure is being taken to avoid last minute bottlenecks and to assure proper compliance with the ISPS Code, by allowing enough time for verification of the SSPs.



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We would also like to encourage all companies to provide to the Maritime Security Department (csr@amp.gob.pa) the information of all designated Company Security Officers (CSO) and their contact details by May 1st 2004.

Attention is also drawn to the compliance of Merchant Marine Circular No.129, with regards to “Pre-arrival Notification”.

February 2004

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

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