

Merchant Marine Circular

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-243

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

Subject: Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC).

Reference: Resolution No.106-13-DGMM of March 8th, 2012.
Resolution No.106-85-DGMM of December 17th, 2014
Resolution JD No. 038-2014 of November 12th, 2014.
Resolution JD No. 002-2015 of January 27th, 2015.
Resolution No. 106-74-DGMM of September 15th, 2016.
Resolution J.D. No. 053-2016 of September 21th, 2016.
MMC-245 - Armed Security Personnel on board Panama flagged vessels transiting High Risk Areas.

1. This Merchant Marine Circular supersedes and compiles **MMC-305** and **MMC-338**.

2. Purpose:

2.1 The purpose of this circular is to establish the requirements for the accreditation of Private Security Companies on board Panamanian flagged vessels, as well as the documents that must be presented to maintain their accreditation.

3. Scope:

3.1 This Merchant Marine Circular applies to all Private Security Companies that wish to provide protection to Panamanian registered vessels during transit through high-risk areas.

4. Index:

1. Accreditation for PMSC.
2. Multiple accreditations for PMSC.
3. Annual Report of PMSC.
4. Rates to the Recognized PMSC.



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4.1. Accreditation for PMSC.

4.1.1 On April 4th, 2012 was published in the Official Gazette, the Resolution No.106-13-DGMM, dated March 8th, 2012, whereby the Panama Maritime Authority establishes requirements for the Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) to meet, in order to become authorized by this Administration. On December 24th, 2014 a new Resolution was published establishing new requirements in order to become an authorized Private Maritime Security Company, Resolution No. 106-85-DGMM, dated December 17th, 2014. Furthermore, please be advised that Resolution No. 106-13-DGMM is available in English and in Spanish. For Resolution No. 106-85-DGMM, in Spanish (visit Maritime Security link, Panama Regulations).

4.1.2 The Applications from the Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) must be submitted to the Directorate General of Merchant Marine through a Legal Representative in Panama.

4.2. Multiple accreditations for PMSC.

4.2.1 On 4th October 2016, was published in the Official Gazette, the Resolution No. 106-74-DGMM dated 15th September, 2016 (for Spanish version only visit Maritime Security link, Panama Regulations) whereby the Panama Maritime Authority establishes a system of Multiple Accreditation for Private Security Companies wishing to be authorized as affiliates, subsidiaries or companies subject to administrative control that are part of economic groups to provide service voluntary use of armed or disarmed on board Panamanian flagged vessels, which exclusively transit high risk area of piracy attacks and armed robbery staff.

4.2.2 It will be understood as "MULTIPLE ACCREDITATION", the scheme approval of affiliates, subsidiaries, or companies under administrative control as part of economic groups, if applicants do state that are affiliates or subsidiaries of the same corporation or are affiliated with each other to be common, either directly or indirectly from a third party property, or be subject to its administrative control.

4.2.3 The Companies authorized under Multiple Accreditation System may only provide the service for which they are duly approved.

4.3. Annual Report of PMSC.

4.3.1 Starting from the December 15th, 2021, all Private Maritime Security Companies should send through <https://certificates.amp.gob.pa/certificates/FrmAnnualReport.aspx>

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UPDATED PMSC INFORMATION

- a) ISO
- b) Third party insurance,
- c) Personnel list
- d) weapons list,
- e) procedures for the handling and inventory of weapons on board ships, transport, shipment and disembarkation.

ANNUAL REPORT

Not presenting the Annual Report will result into the cancellation of the company:

- a) Annual payment of US\$5,000.
- b) Valid ISO Certificate (ISO 9001:2015/ ISO PAS)
- c) Third party damage policy.
- d) List of ship attended during the last year.

4.4. Rates to the Recognized PMSC

4.4.1 According to article 1 from Resolution JD No. 038-2014 and Article 1 of Resolution JD No. 053-2016 these are the fees established for the Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC):

Fee for Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) wishing to be authorized.	US\$1,000.00 (no handling fee is applicable).
Fee under Multiple Accreditation System for Private Security Companies that wish to be authorized.	US\$1,000.00 (no handling fee is applicable).
Annual Fee to the Private Security Companies.	US\$5,000.00 (no handling fee is applicable).
Annual Fee under Multiple Accreditation System.	US\$1,000.00 (no handling fee is applicable).

4.4.2 The payment of the Annual fee must be paid in this form:

- a) Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) authorized by the Panama Maritime Authority from 2012 until December 31, 2014, must make payment of annual fee in advance on or before January 31 of each year.
- b) Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC) authorized by the Panama Maritime Authority in 2015 until now, must make payment of annual fee no later than one (1) month after the entry into force of the Resolution of Authorization. (Resolution JD No. 002-2015).



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4.4.3 The second and subsequent payments of the annual fee should be made no later than one (1) month after the date it is executed the resolution that gives its authorization.

4.4.4 All payments can be made at the offices of the Panama Maritime Authority and the Merchant Marine Consulates in the period described above in order to avoid the withdrawal of the authorization granted, with immediate suspension through a Statement of Objections.

August 2025 – Modification on paragraph 4.3.1.

July, 2024 – Modification of paragraph 4.3.1.

October, 2023 – Inclusion paragraph 3 (Scope) and number paragraphs order.

April, 2023 – Change the MMC subject, supersedes and compiles MMC-305 and MMC-338.

December, 2021 - Modification of paragraph 5.

January, 2021 – Update of reference Resolution 106-85-DGMM and Inclusion of new paragraph 5.

December, 2020 - Change of PMA phone numbers.

September, 2019 - Update of reference MSC.1/Circ.1406/Rev.3

June 2019 - Refers in paragraph 2 to Maritime Security link, Panama Regulations.

July, 2018 – Inclusion of new paragraph 4 and 6.

December, 2014 - New Resolution

August, 2014 – Changes in paragraph 4

May, 2013 – Changes in Reference, Paragraph 1, 2 and 4.

December, 2012 – Change in point 4 **October, 2012** –Change of date in point 4.

June, 2012 – Change in reference

April, 2012.

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Circular or any other request should be forward to:

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