



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

Merchant Marine Circular No. 131

To:	Shipowners/Operators, Masters, Recognized Security Organizations and Marine Inspectors of Panamanian Registered Vessels
Subject:	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISPS CODE
References:	SOLAS 74 (2002 Amendments) The International Code for the Security of Ships and Port Facilities (ISPS Code)

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to serve as guidance regarding the amendments to the SOLAS Convention and to the new Chapters regarding Maritime Security and the new ISPS Code.
2. The diplomatic Conference on Maritime Security held in London in December 2002 adopted new provisions in the International Convention for the safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 and the International Code for the Security of Ships and of Port Facilities (ISPS Code) to enhance maritime security. The ISPS Code has been implemented internationally since the 1st of July 2004.
3. Having regard to the importance of the ISPS Code, the Panama Maritime Authority through its Board of Directors created the Maritime Security Department.
4. The Panama Maritime Authority has outlined the implementation of the Code in a four-step process:
 1. The elaboration of the Ship Security Plans (SSP);
 2. The evaluation of the Ship Security Plans (SSP);
 3. The verification of the Ship Security Plans (SSP);and
 4. The issuance of the Full Term ISSC (five years validity).
5. Panama have incorporated the figure of Recognized Security Organizations (RSO) in the implementation of the ISPS Code; and multiple Interim Guidelines have been issued on the different aspects of the Code: Ships, Port Facilities, Companies and Recognized Security Organizations. For further information regarding this subject, please write to MSD@amp.gob.pa



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6. The Panama Maritime Authority has recognized as the RSOs responsible for the evaluation of Ship Security plans (ssp):

1. American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)
2. Bureau Veritas (BV)
3. China Classification Society (CCS)
4. China Corporation Register of Shipping (CRS)
5. Det Norske Veritas (DNV)
6. Ferriby Marine
7. Germanischer Lloyd (GL)
8. Hellenic Register of Shipping (HRS)
9. International Register of Shipping
10. Isthmus Bureau of Shipping (IBS)
11. Korean Register of Shipping (KRS)
12. Lloyd's Register of Shipping (LR)
13. Marine Bureau Inc, (MB)
14. Martinez & Co.
15. Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (NKK)
16. Panama Bureau of Shipping S. A. (PBS)
17. Panama Maritime Documentation Services, Inc.
18. Panama Maritime Quality Services Inc (PMQS)
19. Panama Register Corporation
20. Phoenix Vessel Service (P.V.S.)
21. Registro Italiano Navale (RINA)
22. ST Education and Training, Pte, Ltd. (S.T.E.T) (Singapore Technologies Engineering subsidiary)
23. Universal Shipping Bureau Inc.
24. Universe Security Group (U.S.G.)

Shipowners must submit their SSP for plan approval following instructions by different authorized RSO(s).

7. Upon evaluation of the plan by any of the above mentioned RSO(s) responsible for the evaluation of Ship Security Plans (SSP), ship-owners shall be notified of the approval so they can contact an RSO (Verifier) to carry out the verification on board. The following list of RSO(s) has been recognized for the verification process:

1. American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)
2. Aspiotis Maritime Ltd.
3. Bureau Veritas (BV)
4. China Classification Society (CCS)



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5. China Corporation of Shipping
 6. Det Norske Veritas (DNV)
 7. Ferriby Marine
 8. Germanischer Lloyd (GL)
 9. Hellenic Register of Shipping
 10. International Register of Shipping (Panama) Inc.
 11. isthmus Bureau of Shipping (IBS)
 12. Korean Register of Shipping (KRS)
 13. Lloyd's Register (LR)
 14. Macosnar Corporation.
 15. Marine Bureau, Inc.
 16. Martinez & Co., Inc.
 17. Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (NKK)
 18. Overseas Marine Certification Services Inc.
 19. Panama Bureau of Shipping (PBS)
 20. Panama Marine Survey and Certification Services Inc.
 21. Panama Maritime Documentation Services Inc.
 22. Panama Maritime Quality Services, Inc.
 23. Panama Maritime Surveyor Bureau, Inc. (PMSB)
 24. Panama Register Corporation (PRC)
 25. Registro Italiano Navale (RINA)
 26. Stet Maritime Bureau Pte Ltd.
 27. Universal Shipping Bureau, Inc.
 28. Universe Security Group (USG)
8. The RSO carrying out the verification will then submit a report to the Panama Maritime Authority detailing the inspection carried out and determining that the vessel is found in compliance with the approved ship security plan. The Panama Maritime Authority will then issue an International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) to the vessel.
9. The validity of the ISSC will be of five (5) years with interim inspections between the second and third year and a second one six months prior to expiration. Interim ISSC could be issued by the RSO carrying out the verification or by the Panama Maritime Authority and the validity of the same should not exceed than six (6) months.
- Upon Completion of the SSP'(s) verification, RSO(s) are entitled to issue on behalf of the Panama Maritime Authority a Short Term ISSC valid for five months-to cover the period between the audit and the issuance of the full term ISSC.
10. Ships under bareboat charter – For the effects of this Maritime Administration, the responsibility of the elaboration, evaluation and implementation of the Ship Security Plan on board of bareboat charter vessels will be subject to requirements of the Flag the vessel is flying.



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11. ITC 69: This Administration will consider the application of the ISPS Code to those passenger vessels, cargo vessels and high-speed crafts based only on their ITC-69 tonnage, this provision does not include MODU units. National tonnage [provisions (interim scheme) will not be taken into consideration.

October 2003

Revised April 2004 (inclusion of 5 additional RSOs)

Revised June 2004 (inclusion of 2 additional RSOs)

Revised June 21, 2004 (inclusion of 9 Bis: Short Term ISSC)

Revised October 5, 2004 (Inclusion of new RSO(s) for evaluation of Ship Security Plans)

Revised November 24, 2004 (Inclusion of PMSB for evaluation of Ship Security Plans)

Revised April 24, 2006 (inclusion of ROs)

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

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