



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

Merchant Marine Circular No.145

Panama Maritime Authority

To: Shipowners/Operators, Recognized Security Organizations
and Inspectors of Panamanian Registered Vessels

Subject: ISPS Code - Intermediate verification

Reference: SOLAS 74 (2005 Amendments) and The International Code for the Security of Ships and Port Facilities (ISPS Code Part A/19.1.1)

1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to complement the contents of MMC 131 and serve as guidance for the endorsements of the Full Term ISPS Certificates during the intermediate verification specified in ISPS Code, A/19.1.1.3.
2. According to regulation 19.3.1 an International Ship Security Certificate shall be issued for a period specified by Administration, which shall not exceed five (5) years. For the Panama Maritime Authority the validity of the ISSC is five (5) years.
3. As per Regulations 19.1.1.3 of the ISPS Code, each ship to which Part A of the Code applies shall be subject to, "at least one intermediate verification".
4. The first intermediate verification will be take place between the second and third anniversary dates of the validity of the full term ISSC. However this Administration has decided that it will only require the first intermediate verification.
5. The Scope: The intermediate verification shall include inspection of the security system and any associated security equipment of the ship to ensure that it remains satisfactory for service for which the ship intended.

6. The Company Security Officer or shipowners shall contact the RSO who carried out the initial verification on which the full term ISSC is based, to carry out the intermediate verification on board. Only the RSO who carried out initial verification, can perform the intermediate verification and the endorsement of the full term ISSC.
7. In the case in which a ship-owner decides not to use the RSO that carried out its initial verification (for purpose of getting in intermediate verification) , it is necessary to carry out a intermediate verification with the scope of an initial verification.
8. The RSO(s) carrying out the intermediate verification must submit as soon as possible but no later than 30 days from the date of the audit to the Maritime Security Department of the Panama Maritime Authority the following documents:
 - a. Copy of the Full Term ISPS Certificate duly endorsed in the corresponding space.
 - b. A copy of the audit report, detailing the scope of the audit carried out, and determining if the ship is found in compliance with the approved ship security plan.The summary report shall contain:
 - b-1 the auditor's signature and RSO's stamp,
 - b-2 the signature of the Ship Security Officer (SSO) and/or Captain of the audited ship who shall sign this document upon completion of the intermediate verification.
 - b-3 the ship's seal.
9. In case that the intermediate verification is not carried out with the requirement of ISPS Code specified in the items 6, 7 and 8 of this circular, during the time frame requested by ISPS Code, the Full Term ISSC will be immediately cancelled by this Administration following the Regulation 19.3.8.

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

Panama Maritime Authority
Maritime Security Department
Address: P.O. Box 5245
Panama 5, Republic of Panama.

Tel: (507) 270-7525
Fax: (507) 322 0133

E-mail: MSD@amp.gob.pa