



INTERNATIONAL SHIP REGISTRY OF GABON
COMMISSIONAIRE OF MARITIME AFFAIRS

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To : Owners/Operators, Masters, Flag State Surveyors, Recognized Organizations.

Subject : Use of Armed Guards on board Gabonese Flagged Vessels

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this Circular is to inform all parties concerned with Gabonese flagged vessels that the Maritime Safety Committee, at its 89th Session approved the Interim recommendation regarding the use of *Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP)* on board ships in the high risk area as per the MSC.1/Circ.1405/Rev.2, MSC.1/Circ.1406/Rev.3 and MSC.1/Circ.1443.

1.2 The use of PCASP should not be considered as an alternative to Best Management Practices (BMP) and other protective measures. This Administration emphasis the that BMP be applied throughout the High-Risk Area (HRA) and in the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and should be considered as the foremost preventative option.

1.3 The Administration urges Gabonese vessels transiting high-risk areas, to use all required security measures and raise their level of warning according to the Ship Security Plan. The crew should be provided with the necessary training and information about the risks of having an armed team onboard.

2. Definitions

2.1 High Risk Area: An area as defined in the BMP unless otherwise defined by the flag State.

2.2. Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC): Private contractors employed to provide Security Personnel, both armed and unarmed, on board for protection against piracy.

2.3 Team Leader: Person responsible for all aspects of the security team members and who takes care of the storage and handling of firearms and ammunitions.

3. The privately contracted armed security personnel onboard Gabon flagged vessels should be on-signed as supernumerary in order to avoid any problem with the port and coastal state.



4. All ship-owners and ship-operators when entering into a contract with a PMSC should ensure compliance with the *MSC.1/Circ.1405/Rev.2*.

5. All Gabon flagged vessels are hereby requested to maintain a wide communication with the Administration and to liaise with the International Contact Centers according to the BMP4 in order to counter piracy in the High Risk Areas of the Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and any other Region of High Risk, as determined by this administration.

References

MSC.1/Circ.1405/Rev.2

MSC.1/Circ.1406/Rev.3

MSC.1/Circ.1333

MSC.1/Circ.1334

MSC.1/Circ.1443



Notes: The International Ship Registry of Gabon requires all the Ship owners / Operators, to make sure the following Format be filled by them or the PCASP team leader before they embark on the vessel.

At the termination / disembark point Master to the vessel to confirm all Armed Personnel Disembarked along with all ammunition/ live rounds.

CARRIAGE OF ARMED GUARDS ONBOARD

1	NAME OF VESSEL:
2	IMO NO:
3	PRIVATE MARITIME SECURITY COMPANY:
4	FULL STYLE OF PRIVATE MARITIME SECURITY COMPANY: 24 HRS CONTACTS:
5	ARMED PERSONNEL STAFF ON BOARD (NAME AND PASSPORT DETAILS):
6	PORT OF EMBARKATION:
7	PORT OF DISEMBARKATION:
8	TRANSIT ROUTE:
9	DETAILS OF WEAPON ON BOARD:



10	ANTI PIRACY MEASURES EMPLOYED (PLEASE SPECIFY) –BMP4 (Section 5 – 8)
11	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF VOYAGE / TRANSIT:

* The PCASP declares the information above is true. The same will be strictly confidential and for the use of Gabonese Maritime Administration.

**Master of Ship hereby confirms that all Armed guards disembarked along with all weapons/rounds

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

SIGNATURE* (PCASP team leader): _____

Master of Ship (Name): _____

Signature: _____

Date of Boarding: _____

Date of Embark: _____

Disembark** _____

Ship Stamp: _____