

The Republic of Palau
Palau International Ship Registry
“The Sea Lane to Prosperity”

**MARINE CIRCULAR 12-008 PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL OF ARMED
PERSONNEL ONBOARD PALAU VESSELS**

To: ALL SHIPOWNERS, MANAGERS, OPERATORS AND MASTERS

Subject: Procedures for Approval of Armed Personnel on board Palau Vessels

1. Background

1.1 The Somalia Piracy continues to be a threat to vessels and crew trading within the Gulf of Aden, the Indian Ocean and other affected areas. The Republic of Palau therefore acknowledges that the industry developed “Best Management Practices” BMP while playing an essential in the ship’s defense against piracy, including methods to avoid piracy attacks, sometimes is not enough and additional measures should and can be used by Shipowners in order to avoid and defense itself from piracy attacks, including the use of *Private maritime security companies (PMSC)*.

2. Objective

2.1 The Republic of Palau taking into consideration the actual situation in the High Risk Areas has developed procedures for the certification and authorization of PMSP on board the Palau Flag.

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2.3 All PMSP that will go onboard a Palau Registered Vessel shall be duly authorized individually by the Palau Government and shall comply with this procedure in order to obtain authorization from Palau Government in order to be contracted as security personnel on Palau registered vessels.

2.4 This Circular provides PMSP with the requirements, conditions and procedures for obtaining authorization from the Government of Palau to carry fire arms onboard Palau registered vessels.

3. Definitions

“High Risk Areas (HRA)”: areas of the ocean where acts of terrorism, piracy or armed robbery have taken place. An area defined as High Risk may change periodically or over time due to changes in weather, tactics and areas of operation of the perpetrators. Therefore, it is imperative that owners, operators and Masters assess areas of risk based on the latest available information from the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), the NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) and the International Maritime Bureau (IMB). Vessels also must be prepared to alter course at short notice to avoid pirate activity when information is provided by NAV Warnings and/or naval/military forces.

Private maritime security personnel (PMSP): Private contractors employed by a Private Maritime Security Company to provide security personnel, both armed and unarmed, on board for protection against piracy.

“Private maritime security companies” - Private Security Companies contracted to provide security personnel, both armed and unarmed, on board for protection against piracy.

4. Criteria for the Certification of PMSP

4.1 All PMSP individuals seeking certification from the Palau Government should submit to Palau International Ship Registry the following information:

- 4.1.1 Application for Authorization of Individuals to Carry Arms onboard Palau registered vessels.
- 4.1.2 Legalized attestation from PMSC confirming employment of the individual.
- 4.1.3 CV of the Individual
- 4.1.4 Qualifications, Courses and Training Records of the Individual
- 4.1.5 Copy of the Passport or Official Traveling Document

4.2 Confirming to all of the above requirements, the following should also be submitted to Palau International Ship Registry

- 4.2.1 Documentary evidence of Criminal Background Checks
- 4.2.2 Documentary evidence of the Employment History
- 4.2.3 Documentary Evidence of Military and Law Enforcement Checks when applicable;

4.2.4 Records of medical, physical, and mental fitness of personnel (including drug and alcohol testing);

5. Certification

- 5.1 Upon the receipt of the information detailed above which should be considered the minimum requirements for authorization, Palau International Ship Registry will review the information and contact the PMSC directly for any questions arise during the review.
- 5.2 Palau International Ship Registry after reviewing the information and finding it in compliance with the IMO Guidelines and the Palau Flag Requirement will issue a Letter of Authorization for the individual to carry arms onboard Palau registered vessels.

6. Additional Information

- 6.1 For additional information of the Republic of Palau procedures and requirements for the certification of PMSC, the Technical Department at Palau International Ship Registry should be contacted

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