



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
**MERCHANT MARINE CIRCULAR MMC-358**

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

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**Subject:** Security Measures in Nigerian waters.

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**Reference:** 1982 UNCLOS  
SOLAS Chapter XI-2 Regulations 3.1 and 6.6  
MMC 228  
MMC 230  
MMC 238  
MMC 320

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1. The Panama Maritime Authority encourages all Panamanian flagged vessels transiting in Nigerian waters, to increase the security measures on board and comply with any security regulations recommended, in territorial waters, by the Coastal and Port Authorities; taking into consideration the recent piracy attacks occurred in the region (hijacking, kidnapping and armed robbery).
2. The Panama Maritime Authority further encourages the implementation of the necessary security measures established by this Administration through anti-piracy Merchant Marine Circulars, in particular MMC No. 238.
3. Taking account the high number of incident in Nigerian waters, the **INTERTANKO** has released the following issues related to security in Nigerian waters:
  - The Nigerian Navy has started to station floating operating bases in the Delta and, coupled with a new monitoring process supplied by the US Navy, are able to interdict pirates at a very early stage.
  - The Nigerian Naval is only allowing naval guards to operate in the area onboard the vessels. The armed guards are no longer allowed onboard merchant vessels. Any vessel found with armed guards onboard will be detained and if the guards were from the Navy, they would face sanctions.
  - To provide security in Nigerian waters, the Nigerian Navy has entered into agreements with private security companies to supply armed escort vessels. These escort vessels are painted in

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Nigerian Navy colors, have a Nigerian Navy designation and will be crewed by and under the command of the Navy. Civilian contractors would be onboard to assist in maintenance and other general duties.

- To obtain more information or in case to verify the authenticity of any companies operating under MOUs covering such deployments please contact Mr. Phillip Belcher [phillip.belcher@intertanko.com](mailto:phillip.belcher@intertanko.com)

4. For further assistance and/or inquiries please note the following contact points:

Maritime Ships Security Department (weekdays from 08:30 to 16:30 hrs local time)  
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IMB (International Maritime Bureau) Piracy Reporting Centre  
Phone: +60-3-2031-0014 (manned 24/7 everyday) Fax: +60-3-2078-5769  
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Website: <https://icc-ccs.org/piracy-reporting-centre>

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***Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to: Maritime Ships Security Department  
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