



CIRCULAR MCO – 006/2018

DATE: 26-02-2018
FROM: MCO HEAD OFFICE – TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT
TO: OWNERS /MANAGEMENTS/SURVEYORS.
SUBJECT: *NEW REGULATION FOR THE USE OF THE SHIP SECURITY ALERT SYSTEM (SSAS)*
Reference: SOLAS 74', as amended, Regulation XI-2/6
Resolution MSC. 136 (76) December 11, 2002
Resolution MSC. 147 (77) May 29, 2003
MSC/Circ. 1072 June 26, 2003
MSC/Circ. 1155 May 23, 2005
MSC.1/Circ.1190 May 30, 2006
Resolution J.D. No. 028-2003
Resolution No.106-107-DGMM October 9, 2017

Dear All:

The purpose of this Merchant Marine Circular is to update the instructions and procedures of the Ship Security Alert System (SSAS) according to SOLAS 74', as amended Chapter XI-2 Reg. 6 and the IMO Resolution MSC 136(76) as amended by MSC 147(77), MSC/Circ.1072, MSC/Circ.1155 and MSC.1/Circ.1190. Any deficiency related to the ship security alert system (SSAS), is a failure of compliance with the ISPS Code and the ISM Code.

NEW REGULATIONS FOR SSAS TEST MESSAGE:

According to **Resolution No.106-107-DGMM dated October 9th, 2017 from January 1st, 2018** the annual SSAS TEST will be received through the use of an electronic platform for the Supply and Operation of the Ship Identification and Monitoring System.

From November 30th, 2017 all the CSO that already send the Validation Form described in **MMC 353** or apply through the CSO Endorsement online application by the website link: <http://certificates.amp.gob.pa/certificates> will receive an email from info@panama-ssas.com with their credentials and the instructions.

We will receive the Validation Form until **December 15, 2017**. After this date, please make the endorsement or revalidate the information through the online application.

The operators and/or owners of the Panamanian registry vessels through the CSO have the responsibility to schedule, **-not less than 3 days before-** through the platform, the annual tests of SSAS TEST in a period no longer than twelve (12) calendar months. The confirmation message

of the annual SSAS TEST should be retained on board as evidence according to paragraph 24 of this MMC.

For ships to enter the Panamanian registry as of January 1st, 2018, they must schedule the first SSAS TEST through the use of the new platform, which must be verified by their RSO during the initial verification and from that date onwards, every 12 months as mentioned in previous paragraphs. In those cases, please be sure that the Company Security Officer designed by the Company Operator already has the Declaration of Company Security Officer duly endorsed by the Panama Maritime Authority (MMC 206) in order to schedule the first SSAS TEST.

Only one annual SSAS TEST is mandatory. In case of vessels that perform more than one test and require a flag confirmation they should not schedule it through the platform, in those cases they also have to use the below SSAS TEST message information and send an email directly to threat@amp.gob.pa.

All the Panamanian flagged vessels described in paragraph 3 of the Resolution No.106-107-DGMM must keep the email address threat@amp.gob.pa (main) in their SSAS terminal. The use of authorizations@segumar.com is optional.

The vessels that have been granted a Certificate of Exemption from the use of the SSAS in accordance with paragraphs 27-29 of this MMC and the Panamanian flagged vessels that are out of service during a calendar year and have a Certificate of Special Registry of Laid-Up are excluded from the present Resolution.

ANNUAL SSAS TEST MESSAGE

The SSAS TEST messages must include the information described below. It is important that the information is encoded as it is being requested so that the SSAS TEST MESSAGE can be received.

1. TESTs must be sent via email, using ASCII, UTF-8 or ANSI encodings to the following address: threat@amp.gob.pa.
 - ✓ **Name of vessel** The name of the vessel must be written in closed capital letters and should appear exactly as it is written in the Navigation Documents.
 - ✓ **IMO number** It must contain 7 digits and may be preceded by the word "IMO".
 - ✓ **Mobile Maritime Vessel Identifier** the MMSI must contain 9 digits, which cannot be separated by spaces, dashes or other characters.
 - ✓ **Call Sign** It must contain between 4 and 7 digits and must appear exactly as it is written in the ship's registration patent. Do not use spaces, hyphens or other characters other than letters and numbers.
 - ✓ **Date and time** The date can be represented in any of the following 3 formats: • DD-MM-YYYY • MM-DD-YYYY • YYYY-MM-DD • For which "DD" represents the day, "MM" represents the month and "YYYY" represents the year. The separators can be slashes, points or dashes. • The time can be represented in any of the following 2 formats: • HH:MM • HH:MM:SS • For which "HH" is the hour expressed in 24-hour format, "MM" represents the minutes and "SS" represents the seconds. All times must be submitted according to the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

Coordinates of the position of the vessel at the time of the SSAS test. The coordinates can be expressed in degrees, minutes and seconds, degrees and decimals of minutes or in decimals of degrees and additional should indicate the hemisphere.

- Separators between grades, minutes and seconds can be:
 - ✓ The symbols for degrees, minutes and seconds (° ' ")

- ✓ Two points (:)
- ✓ Spaces
- The indicators of the hemispheres for the coordinates must be expressed in the initial letter of the hemisphere and in English in capital letters:
 - ✓ "N" or "S" for latitude
 - ✓ "E" or "W" for length
 - ✓ The hemisphere can be placed before or after the position coordinates.

Please confirm of safe receipt and understanding.

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