



CIRCULAR MCO – 037-2021

DATE: SEPTEMBER 27th, 2021
FROM: MCO HEAD OFFICE – TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT
TO: SURVEYORS/ MANagements/ OWNERS/ OPERATORS
SUBJECT: SHIP SECURITY ASSESSMENT (SSA)

Dear All:

By this means we would like to draw your attention to circular **MMC-124** aimed at making sure that all Company Security Officers of Panamanian flagged vessels carry out Ship Security Assessments by persons with appropriate skills to evaluate ships security in accordance with the ISPS Code.

The Ship Security Assessment is an essential and integral part of the process of developing and updating the Ship Security Plan Onboard Panamanian flagged vessels. SSA´s shall include on scene security surveys but not limited to the following:

- Identification of existing security measures, procedures and operations;
- Identification and evaluation of key shipboard operations that it is important to protect
- Identification of possible threats to the key shipboard operations and the likelihood of their occurrence in order to establish and prioritize security measures; and
- Identification of weaknesses, including human factors, infrastructure, policies and procedures

Ship Security Assessments shall be properly documented, reviewed, accepted and retained by the company. CSO´s should ensure that advantage is taken of information available on the assessment of threat for the ports at which the ship will call or at which passengers embark or disembark and about the port facilities and protective measures.

A Ship Security Assessment should address the following elements on board Panamanian flagged vessels:

- Physical security;
- Structural integrity;
- Personnel protection systems;
- Procedural procedures;
- Radio and telecommunication systems;
- Other areas that may be pose risks to people, property or operations on board the ship or within a port facility

Upon completion of a SSA, a report must be prepared, consisting of a summary of how the assessment was conducted, a description of each vulnerability found and a description of counter measures that could be used to address each vulnerability.

The SSA shall be sent together with Ship Security Plan to the RSO by a predetermined method to prevent unauthorized disclosure. RSO´s shall review the SSA to ensure that each element required by the Code is satisfactorily addressed and is used as a reference for SSP.

Note: Circular **MMC-124** attached for reference.

All related documents can be found on our website: <https://macosnar.com/>.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,



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