



CIRCULAR MCO – 038-2021

DATE: SEPTEMBER 27th, 2021
FROM: MCO HEAD OFFICE – TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT
TO: SURVEYORS/ MANagements/ OWNERS/ OPERATORS
SUBJECT: STOWAWAYS PREVENTION OF ACCESS

Dear All:

By this means we would like to draw your attention to circular **MMC-252** aimed the implementation of all necessary security measures to prevent stowaways access either at sea or on arrival. Whenever a stowaway is discovered, it immediately becomes a failure in the implementation of the Ship Security Plan.

The Panama Administration has to be informed whenever stowaways are found onboard and the operating company shall coordinate and additional audit in a period not to extend 90 days to verify the Ship Security Plan. In this case it will be necessary to request additional audit authorizations through the e-segumar platform using the Security Incident option <http://certificates.amp.gob.pa/certificates> .

In ports where there is a risk of stowaway vessels must implement preventive measures as follows but not limited to:

- All doors, hatches and means of access not in use during port stay to be locked;
- Access points to be kept to a minimum and adequately secured;
- Adequate deck watch;
- Boarding and disembarkation to be tallied by the crew after agreement with the master;
- At night, proper lighting maintained inside and along the hull

If a stowaway is found the responsibility of the Master and shipowner is:

- To determine immediately the port of embarkation of the stowaway;
- Identify the stowaway
- Prepare an statement with all available information related to the stowaway;
- Ensure that the stowaway is not forced to work onboard;
- Ensure that the stowaway is treated in a human way;
- Comply with any removal directions made by the competent national authorities at the port of disembarkation;
- To cover any applicable costs related to removal, detention, treatment and disembarkation of the stowaway
- Not to depart from the planned voyage to seek disembarkation for the stowaway after it has left territorial waters of the State where the stowaway embarked

For reference and use take into account the Revised Guidelines on the Prevention of access by Stowaways and the allocation of Responsibilities to seek the successful resolution of the Stowaway cases. (Resolution Fal.11(37) adopted on 9 September 2011) (For reference visit Maritime Security Link, IMO Documents).

Note: Circular **MMC-252** 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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