



CIRCULAR MCO – 006-2023

October 17th, 2023

FROM | MCO HEAD OFFICE – TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT
TO | SURVEYORS/ MANAGEMENTS/ OWNERS/ OPERATORS
SUBJECT | SHIP SECURITY ALER SYSTEM (SSAS)

Dear all,

By this means we would like to draw your attention to the contents of Panama Merchant Marine Circular 133 (**MMC 133 – SHIP SECURITY ALERT SYSTEM (SSAS)**) with instructions and procedures of the Ship Security Alert System (SSAS) as per SOLAS 74, as amended and Resolution No. 106-107-DGMM dated October 9th, 2017. MMC 133 is applicable for all vessel of 500 gross tonnage and above engaged on international voyage.

Starting October 2017, all Panama flagged vessels had to set up threat@amp.gob.pa as the main recipient on the SSAS designated terminal. All annual tests are currently being received only through the SSAS Community electronic platform by Polestar. Upon configuration of the terminal, company operators shall request access via email to info@panama-ssas.com submitting copy of the last CSO Declaration dully endorsed. Upon submission is completed and found in compliance and email will be received with credentials and instructions for the platform in order to be able to schedule annual SSAS Tests accordingly. All of the previously mentioned in compliance with Resolution 106-107-DGMM.

Scheduled annual SSAS tests information should be encoded as requested in order to the tests to be processed accordingly. Information to be included in the SSAS test message as follows:

- Name of vessel
- IMO number
- Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI)
- Call Sign
- Date and time
- Coordinates of the position of the vessel at the time of the SSAS test
- Vessel Speed
- Test indicators

Confirmation of annual SSAS tests will be received through an email that indicates that the test has been carried out successfully. In case of tests not being successful, there are to main reasons for not receiving the confirmation:

- Failed test, if the test is not complying with requested encoded information format
- Pending test, in case of non being able to carry out the tests. A notification should be sent to info@panama-ssas.com with reasons for not performing the test and new programmed date

In cases when the SSAS equipment is not operating correctly, companies should request a SSAS malfunction authorization. In this case, a new SSAS test shall be scheduled in order to verify that the SSAS is working properly and a technical report is to be sent to isps@amp.gob.pa.

The Panama Maritime Authority recommends that all Panama flagged vessels, with or without armed or unarmed security personnel and prior entry into High-Risk Areas, brief accordingly all crewmembers on preparations for the area as well as a piracy drill to be conducted with security drills and applicable reviews and familiarization of alarms used to identify piracy attacks. Security drills should be scheduled through the SSAS platform indicating it is a piracy drill. These measures should be taken to ensure that the security procedures are working properly along with recommendations in the last available version of the Best Management Practices (BMP) and the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC).

Non compliance with SSAS regulations may be subject to sanctions by the Panama Maritime Authority.

Note: **MMC 133 – SHIP SECURITY ALERT SYSTEM (SSAS)**, together with **Resolution 106-107-DGMM, IMO Res. MSC.136(76) – PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR A SHIP SECURITY ALERT SYSTEM** and a **Sample of the Successful Test Confirmation by the Panama Maritime Authority** are attached for your reference.

Should you have any further questions, don't hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,




Capt. Gustavo Vaz
Technical Department
MACOSNAR Corporation