

Ref No. : **20/01926/COM**Date : **09.07.2020**Page : **2 (Two)****To,****OWNERS/MANAGERS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS (DCs),
COMPANY SECURITY OFFICERS (CSOs), MASTER, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS (ROs)****SUBJET: Use of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP) on Board****REFERENCE: MSC.1/Circ.1405/Rev.2;
MSC.1/Circ.1406/Rev.3;**

1. The purpose of this Circular is to inform all parties concerned that the Maritime Safety Committee, at its 89th Session approved the Interim recommendation regarding the use of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP) on board ships in the high risk area as per the MSC.1/Circ.1405/Rev.2, MSC.1/Circ.1406/Rev.3 and MSC.1/Circ.1443 (for reference visit Maritime Security link, IMO Documents).
2. The use of PCASP should not be considered as an alternative to Best Management Practices (BMP) and other protective measures. It is recommended that BMP be applied throughout the High Risk Area (HRA) and in the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and be considered as the first, minimum, preventative option. Placing armed guards on board as a means to secure and protect the ship and its crew should only be considered after a risk assessment has been carried out.
3. The Administration urges Comorian vessels transiting high-risk areas, to use the necessary security measures and raise their level of warning according to the Ship Security Plan. Ships, who intend to hire the services of Private security firms, should provide the crew with the necessary training and information about the risks of having an armed team onboard.
4. This Administration will grant consent for the carriage of armed personnel on board, according to the MSC.1/Circ.1405/Rev.2 and MSC.1/Circ.1406/Rev.3., following the presentation and approval of the following documents by the Owner/Managers:
 - Private Maritime Security Company's (PMSC) registration certificate;
 - ISO - Management System Certificate of the PMSC;
 - PMSC's profile;
 - Bilateral Agreement between the Chartering Company (Owners of the vessel) and the PMSC (GUARDCON);
 - Contract PCASP and Armed Guard/List/Appointment;
 - Valid Passport or Seaman Book and CV of the PCASP;
 - Weapon and equipment list.

5. All Comorian flagged vessels are hereby requested to maintain a wide communication with the Administration and to liaise with the International Contact Centers according to the BMP4 in order to counter piracy in the High Risk Areas.
6. Should you require any additional information, you may contact our Technical Department as provided below:

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