



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 297 of 15th October 2015

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	Guidance Notes for ISPS Auditors on the use of armed security guards onboard vessels
Reference:	CONARINA Procedures

Guidance Notes for ISPS Auditors
on the use of armed security guards onboard vessels

CONARINA auditors should be aware that CONARINA does not recommend or endorse use of armed security guards onboard vessels. The decision to use armed guards onboard a ship should be taken by the individual shipowner after a thorough risk/security assessment and consultation with its flag Administration. The shipowner should ensure that all other practical means of self-protection have been employed and the armed guards, where used, are in addition to but not as an alternative to security measures contained in the IMO adopted Industry Best Management Practices against Somalia Based Piracy.

The use of armed guards should be in accordance with the IMO guidelines and any instructions issued by the relevant flag administration. The company should take into account the following IMO Circulars when considering use of armed security guards:

- MSC.1/Circ. 1405/Rev.2 - Revised Interim Guidance to shipowners, ship operators and shipmasters on the use of privately contracted armed security personnel (PCASP) on board ships in the high risk area, and
- MSC.1/Circ. 1406/Rev. 1 – Revised Interim Recommendations for flag States regarding the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in the high risk area.

Where procedures for use of armed security guards are included in the SSP, the auditor is to confirm that the relevant flag state does not forbid the use of armed guards and verify that IMO recommendations and guidance including any flag state instructions have been taken into account.

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Upon approval of SSP or amendments to the SSP, the report should just indicate that the document has been reviewed for compliance with the requirements of the relevant flag administration and to that extent is approved. The auditors shall not comment on the wisdom of the arrangements but merely confirm that the plan as a whole meets the relevant flag state requirements.

In addition, the auditors should take care that no comment is made during the SSP review and/or shipboard inspections which can be construed as CONARINA recommending or endorsing armed security guards.

REFERENCES:

- CONARINA Procedures

ATTACHMENTS: No.

kindest Regards,
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