

Panama Maritime Quality Services, Inc.
ISPS-Code Update
PMQS/May 23, 2005 / No.10/2005

TO: ALL PMQS MARITIME SECURITY AUDITORS.

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF SOLAS, CHAPTER XI-2, REGULATION 6:
THE SHIP SECURITY ALERT SYSTEM (SSAS)

- 1- SOLAS, Chapter XI-2, Regulation 6, requires all Ships to be provided with a **Ship Security Alert System (SSAS)** which will transmit a Security Alert to a designated Competent Authority when activated in an emergency situation.
- 2- As the **Ship Security Alert System (SSAS)** is a requirement of SOLAS, Chapter XI-2, it is **NOT** considered to be Radio Equipment thus not covered by the **Safety Radio Survey** and the **Cargo Ship Safety Radio** and **Passenger Ship Safety Certificate** is not affected. Any deficiency in the **Ship Security Alert System (SSAS)** is a Failure in compliance with the ISPS-Code and potentially in the ISM-Code.
- 3- Due to their mode Installation and Operation, there are effectively two (2) types of **Ship Security Alert Systems (SSAS)** commonly known as **SSAS** and **SSAS-SC**. Companies should be aware of the difference and which type they have fitted to their Ships.
- 4- **Ship Security Alert Systems (SSAS)**: A system which requires interface with, and/or depends on input from, radio and/or navigational equipment required by SOLAS, Chapters IV and V to meet the performance standards required by SOLAS, Charter XI-2, Regulation 6.
- 5- As **SSAS** is a requirement of SOLAS, Chapter XI-2, it is **NOT** part of the **Radio Installation Survey**. It is however subject to Type Approval by the Flag Administration and is to be in accordance with the IMO Performance Standard contained in IMO Resolution MSC.136(76) as Revised by MSC.147(77). Following installation the **SSAS** is to be Surveyed to ensure that it meets the requirements of SOLAS, Chapter XI-2, Regulation 6, paragraphs 2-4 inclusive.

5.1- In cases where **Panama Maritime Documentation Services (PMDS)** is the Recognized Organization Responsible for the issue of the **Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate** or for the issue of the **Passenger Ship Safety Certificate**, the **SSAS Survey** will be carried out by a PMDS approved service supplier for the **Safety Radio Surveys** (Radio Technician). On completion of the **SSAS Survey** the PMDS **Record of Safety Radio Equipment for GMDSS Ships (PMDS form: GMDSS/Record)** will be updated in the item 22 "**Particular or any Special Features or Additional Information**".

A comment such as: "**The Ship Security Alert System (SSAS) as fitted meets the Requirements of SOLAS, Chapter XI-2, Regulation 6, Paragraphs 2-4 inclusive**", will be made. It should be noted that the Record of Equipment for the CSSR Certificate (Form R), the Record of Equipment for the PSS Certificate (Form P) and the Record of Equipment for the CSSE Certificate (Form E) will **NOT** include details of the **SSAS**.

5.2- In cases where **Panama Maritime Quality Services (PMQS)** is responsible for the ISPS-Code Certification, but **NOT** for the **Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate** or the **Passenger Ship Safety Certificate**, and the **SSAS** has **NOT** been subject to **Initial Installation Survey**, in special agreement with the company, PMQS will appoint a Radio Surveyor (Radio Technician) to carry out the **SSAS Survey** before the issue of the **Interim or Short Term ISSC** on behalf of the Flag Administration to Certify in the **Additional Information** of the **List of the Verified Security Equipment** (Item No.1) that: **"The SSAS meets the requirements of SOLAS, Chapter XI-2, Regulation 6, Paragraphs 2-4 inclusive"**.

- 6- **"Self-Contained SSAS (SSAS-SC)"**: A system which does not require any interface with, and/or depends on input from, radio and/or navigational equipment required by SOLAS, Chapters IV and V to meet the performance standards required by SOLAS, Chapter XI-2, Regulation 6. This equipment is installed and initiated by the ship and **NOT** Initial Installation survey is required.
- 7- Following the Initial Installation of the **SSAS** or **SSAS-SC**, the company has the responsibility:
 - To ensure that the equipment is tested and maintained to satisfy operational requirements according to the approved SSP; and
 - To keep on board the equipment records specified in ISPS Code A/10.1.10.
- 8- At the next ISPS Ship Board Verification following the Initial Installation of the **SSAS** or **SSAS-SC**, the Maritime Security Auditor of PMQS will check the related provisions in the SSP, witness a complete Security Alert Test and verify the implement of the Operational Requirements of the **SSAS** or **SSAS-SC** in accordance with the requirements of ISPS-Code A/9.4.17 to A/9.4.18 and, in the case of an **SSAS**, sight the Records of Approved GMDSS Radio Installation (GMDSS/Record).
- 9- At each subsequent ISPS-Code Verification the MSA of PMQS will examine the Records of Activities on the **SSAS** or **SSAS-SC** specified in ISPS-Code A/10.1.10, witness a complete Security Alert Test and verify the Operational Requirements and in the case of an **SSAS**, sight the Record of Approved GMDSS Radio Installation (GMDSS/Record).

In order to assist Owners, Shipoperators and Maritime Security Auditors of PMQS, in dealing with this requirement, the text of Resolution **MSC.136(76)**, **MSC.147(77)** and **MSC/Circ.1072** have been provided.

Any questions or comments on this document should be referred to the PMQS-Head Office which is responsible for arranging your ISPS-Code Verifications.

Please, kindly confirm receipt of this ISPS-Code Update No.10/2005 to PMQS Security Department.

Best Regards

Eng. Frank H. Marmol
Security Department
Panama Maritime Quality Services, Inc.
frank@panamamaritime.com