



HEADQUARTERS
PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY GROUP
Malacañang Park, Manila.

PSGA

25 August 2010

STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE
NUMBER 04

**GUIDELINES TO VESSEL TRANSITING MALACAÑANG RESTRICTED AREA
(MRA)**

I. GENERAL:

This SOP prescribes the procedures and guidelines for all vessel transiting Pasig River.

II. OBJECTIVES:

a. To prevent vessels from transiting the Pasig River without clearance from HPSG.

b. To lay down rules/ regulations for vessel transiting Malacañang Restricted Area.

c. To allow a smooth and continuous flow of traffic of passenger and cargoes along Pasig River.

III. SCOPE:

This SOP shall apply to all ships/vessels, tugboats, barges, ferry boats, fish carrier (petuya), tankers, motor bancas and other means of conveyances used for transporting people and goods along the Pasig River and its tributaries.

IV. DEFINATION OF TERMS:

a. **Pasig River** – is the main body of inland navigable river that stretches approximately 27 kilometers from Laguna de Bay to its mouth in Manila Bay. For purpose of this SOP, any reference to Pasig River shall include its two major tributaries, namely: San Juan and Marikina River.

b. **Malacañang Restricted Area (MRA)** - portion of Pasig River from Ayala Bridge to Pandacan Bridge where strict security procedures and measures are applied.

c. **Specified Areas** – are specifically designated areas along Pasig River where mandatory security inspection will be made.

- d. **Ship/Vessel** – includes every description of watercraft and other conveyances used or capable of being used as means of transportation in inland waterways.
- e. **Self-Propelled Barges** – are manned vessels utilized solely for the carriage of cargoes and propelled by their own propulsion system for navigation purposes.
- f. **Ferry Boats** – are passenger vessels designed and operated only inside bays, harbors and rivers.
- g. **Tugboats** – are vessels designed primarily for towing operations.
- h. **Tankers** – are vessels designed primarily for the carriage of petroleum, chemical or other liquid cargoes.
- i. **LPG Tankers** – are vessels designed primarily for the carriage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).
- j. **Privileged Vessels** – a vessel, which is required by the Rules of the Road to maintain its course and speed during crossing situation.
- k. **Burdened Vessels** – a vessel, which is required by the Rules of the Road to give way to another vessel during a crossing situation.
- l. **Master or Patron** – any person who has qualified himself/ herself through appropriate education and experience to command a ship, vessel or watercraft. The education and experience must be supported by an equivalent license and or certification issued by the appropriate government regulatory agency.
- m. **Ship Owner** – a natural or juridical person or company, who owns operates and manages a ship, vessels, or watercraft engaged in the business of transporting passenger or cargoes.
- n. **RHIB** – Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat; a self propelled security boat.

V. **GENERAL POLICIES AND GUIDELINES:**

a. **Safety**

1. All ships/vessels must comply all vessels-safety requirements pertaining to registration and licenses issued by the appropriate regulatory authority to ply their trade along Pasig River. Anent hereto, they shall comply with Philippine Merchant Marine Rules and Regulation (PMMRR) and other applicable rules and regulation pertaining to the carriage on board of the appropriate number of lifesaving appliances and firefighting equipment.
2. All ships/vessels must be manned in accordance with minimum safe manning level required by the PMMRR relative to size and type.

3. All ships/vessels operating along Pasig River shall carry on board a Marine VHF capable of working on Channel 16 (dedicated distress monitoring and calling channel) and Channel 82 A (working channel) in order to be able to communicate with each other and make known the courses of action they may need to undertake to promote safe navigation.

b. Traffic Management

1. All ships/vessels transiting Pasig River are not allowed to stop within and along MRA.

2. No unnecessary blowing of horn when passing MRA.

3. All ships/vessels are advised to attain maximum safe speed when in transit along MRA in order to shorten transit time. However, every ships/vessels must be more cautions when overtaking with another ships/vessels. Overtaken vessel must give way in order to avoid collision with an overtaking vessel.

4. All ships/vessels automatically become burdened vessel when the Presidential Craft are in transit along the Pasig River. This can be identified with barrier boats directing the movement vessels.

5. When navigating during night time, all LPG/Oil Tankers loaded with petroleum products shall show a blinking red light on top of the bridges with 360 degrees visibility at a range of three (3) nautical miles in addition to those prescribed by the Rules of the Road.

6. Berthing of ships/vessels within MRA is strictly prohibited.

7. When two (2) tugboats in towing operations are in a meeting situation, the tugboat navigating downstream (bound for Manila Bay) is deemed to be the privileged vessel and shall therefore maintain its speed and course. The tugboat navigating upriver (bound for Laguna de Bay) is deemed to be the burdened vessels and shall therefore give way.

c. Security

1. All ships/vessels are subject to inspection at Specified Areas before entering MRA. They shall be boarded with security escort while in transit along MRA.

2. Ship owner/operators agents must be provide a list of master/patron/crew members, pertaining licenses and certificate every ships/vessels every six (6) months.

3. All ships/vessels transiting MRA must secure a TRANSIT PASS from HPSG which will be valid for six (6) months presenting all ship's and crew documents as deemed necessary by HPSG.

4. HPSG may implement total closure of MRA in instances when there is a confirmed credible treat to the President, First Family or to the seat of Government.

5. Use of binoculars, taking pictures, video coverage while transiting MRA is strictly prohibited.

6. All owners/masters/patrons have the obligation to report to Coast Guard Station Pasig all matters that may have detrimental effect to the security of MRA.

7. All ports and other facilities along the Pasig River may be subjected to random security inspection.

8. Filled LPG Tankers are only allowed to pass along the MRA from sunrise to sunset while empty LPG Tankers are allowed to transit anytime of the day. They will be inspected and boarded with CGSP personnel before entering MRA with an additional RHIB escorts while on transit.

d. Environmental Protection

1. During and/or discharge into the MRA of any form and in any amount of garbage and oil, oily-water mixtures, noxious liquid, and other harmful substances from machinery spaces, cargo spaces, and cargo pump room bilges of ships is absolutely prohibited.

2. Tankers shall comply with applicable requirements on the carriage of oil-spill control equipment including the installation of oil-water separators and having onboard equivalent arrangement for the storage of used or waste oil and oil-water substances.

VI. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS:

a. Deputy Commander, PSG

1. Monitors the implementation of this SOP.

~~2. Approving authority of the transit clearance~~

b. Chief of Staff, PSG

1. Ensures the availability of material assets and resources.

2. In coordination with G3 and G2, recommended/undertakes frequent evaluation on the implementation of this SOP.

c. Station Commander, CGSP

1. Implements this SOP.

2. Ensures that the PCG personnel involved in the implementation of this SOP are well versed with the procedures and contained herein.

3. Ensures that the PCG personnel involved in the implementation of this SOP have the prescribed training to conduct board and search problem.

d. Ship/Vessel Owners/Operators

1. Ensures the proper documentation of their ships/vessels for the approval of curfew pass when transiting MRA during curfew hours.

2. Ensures adequate management support for the maintenance of their ships/vessels in safe, secure, seaworthy and environment friendly condition.

3. Ensures that the Officers and Crew of their ships/vessels are fully apprised of the contents of this SOP.

e. Master/Patron of Ships/Vessel:

1. Strictly adheres to the provision of this SOP and shall be held primarily responsible for non-compliance.

2. Conducts routing safety, security and marine environment protection drills and exercises.

3. Responds when called upon request for assistance for search and rescue operations and other emergency situations.

VII. RECISSION:

PSG SOP Number 3 dated 07 March 1990 entitled "Guidelines of Vessels Transiting the Restricted Portion of Pasig River" is hereby rescinded.


VIII. EFFECTIVITY:

This SOP shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL DIZON:

OFFICIAL

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PN
24 Nov 10