

PROCEDURES FOR AIR TRANSPORTATION OF PRIVATE MARITIME SECURITY COMPANIES WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT TO AND FROM SRI LANKA AND STORAGE AT RALL ARMOURY FOR MARITIME SECURITY

INTRODUCTION

The UN Security Council Resolution No 2077 of 2012 adopted by the UN Security Council at its 6867th meeting on 21 Nov '12, has stressed the need for a comprehensive response by all states to repress piracy.

Due to its strategic location, Sri Lanka has inevitably become a base of operations of Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSCs) involved in antipiracy operations, and a large number of weapons have been brought to Sri Lanka by those PMSCs to be used in these antipiracy operations.

The Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL), in its endeavours to honour international obligations, has provided whatever assistance to those PMSCs and, in order to further streamline the issue and retrieval of weapons and associated items used by those PMSCs without compromising national security interests, has facilitated to store at the RALL Armoury for Maritime Security (RAMS) at Port of Galle and Port of Colombo under the security of Sri Lanka Navy.

AIR TRANSPORTATION OF PMSCs WEAPONS

GOSL extends this support further by permitting these PMSCs to bring in to or take out from Sri Lanka, PMSCs weapons, related ammunition and associated equipment/accessories by airfreight subject to following Terms & Conditions.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Facility will be extended only to PMSCs providing antipiracy security to commercial (merchant) vessels transiting the High Risk Area (HRA) of the Indian Ocean.
2. PMSCs should be legally incorporated and registered with the respective government to conduct the business of providing antipiracy security on board commercial (merchant) ships transiting the HRA.
3. PMSCs should have signed the agreement with AGMS for the use of RAMS at Port of Galle.
4. PMSCs are required to coordinate with AGMS and arrange as required for airfreighting weapons. AGMS, as the administrator of the RAMS at Port of Galle, shall disseminate necessary instructions.
5. **Procedure for weapons already in possession by PMSCs**

PMSCs wishing to avail the facility of bringing the weapons that are already in possession in to Sri Lanka by airfreight, should provide the following.

- (a) Company incorporation details
 - (b) Registration as a PMSC with the respective government to provide antipiracy security to commercial (merchant) ships transiting the HRA of the Indian Ocean
 - (c) End User Certificate (EUC) of weapons to be brought in and the relevant Export Licence (The EUC must hold the serial numbers of the weapons.)
 - (d) Declaration as per clause 7 below
 - (e) Full details of the consignment
 - (f) Copy of Airway Bill
6. In order to assist the PMSCs to obtain the Export License, AGMS will request and obtain from the Ministry of Defence (Sri Lanka), a Transit Permit.
 7. PMSCs to declare that the items brought into Sri Lanka would be directly handed over to the RAMS and thereafter used only for the purpose of antipiracy security on board commercial (merchant) ships transiting the HRA.
 8. Items to be imported/exported by airfreight are limited to weapons and related ammunition, and for each PMSC restricted to 25 weapons and 15,000 rounds of related ammunition per consignment and for only 4 such consignments per calendar month.

9. Request for bringing in or taking out weapons should be made seven (07) days prior to shipping (air freighting) of consignment giving all details of items, including but not restricted to make, model, serial numbers, caliber, etc. as applicable, flight details, copy of Airway Bill, consignee, consignee address, etc. Anyway when PMSCs are required to Air transport weapons on urgent requirements and they are not in a position to give advance notice of 07 days, AGMS will endeavour to meet the schedules of PMSCs as feasible.
10. Once weapons are received in Sri Lanka, Custom formalities will be handled by the local agent authorized by the PMSC with the assistance of AGMS.
11. If the contents of the consignment is different to that of the Airway bill, AGMS will take up the matter with the PMSC concerned for necessary remedial action.

12. Procedure for new weapons purchased by PMSCs

PMSCs wishing to get the transit approval for weapons yet to be purchased and air freighted to Sri Lanka, should adhere to the following procedure. Accordingly PMSCs should submit to AGMS;

- a) Company incorporation details
- b) Registration as a PMSC with the respective government to provide antipiracy security to commercial (merchant) ships transiting the HRA of the Indian Ocean
- c) Proof of Purchase of items or certificate from manufacturer or the respective dealer
- d) EUCs of weapons
- e) Declaration as per clause 7 above
- f) Full details of the consignment
- g) Copy of Airway Bill

13. Fee for relocation of weapons by air freight as follows.

- (a) USD 75 per weapon.
- (b) For transfer of other items, as per Para14.

14. In the event only ammunition or associated equipment are air freighted, the fee will be calculated according to weight as follows.

- (a) USD 500 - upto 1000 kgs.
- (b) USD 1000 – upto 2000 kgs.
- (c) USD 1750 – upto 3000 kgs.
- (d) USD 3000 – more than 3000 kgs.

15. Relevant Customs and any other clearance shall be obtained by AGMS once the consignments are arrived at the Bandaranayake International Airport / Mattala Rajapaksha International Airport.

16. PMSCs may authorise accredited local agents to represent them and act on their behalf to liaise with AGMS, and shall furnish full details of the authorised representatives including, names, identity document and specimen signatures, to AGMS.

17. PROCEDURE FOR WEAPONS THAT ARE TAKEN OUT THROUGH SRI LANKAN PORTS

The process will be reversed for taking weapons out of Sri Lanka, but the PMSCs are required to attend to all airfreight formalities and submit:

- (a) Details of the consignment
- (b) Details of Consignee
- (c) Declaration that the items will continue to be used only for the purpose of antipiracy security on board commercial (merchant) ships transiting the HRA or to be returned to country of origin.
- (d) Another declaration from the consignee endorsed by a relevant authority and supported by a relevant authority that the consignment is cleared to be accepted by the consignee.

18. The above mentioned procedures may be revised as determined by the Government of Sri Lanka as deemed necessary.