



Merchant Marine **Notice**

Panama Maritime Authority
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Control and Compliance Department

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

ALERT: RAS ISA PORT, YEMEN - RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH SANCTIONS AND HOSTILITIES

No: **MMN-03/2025**

1. The purpose of this Marine Notice is to inform all Panamanian-flagged vessels operating near, or planning to call at, the ports of Ras Isa, Al-Hudaydah, Hodeida, and Salif in Yemen, of the significant operational, legal, and security risks arising from the recent escalation of hostilities and the expiration of U.S. sanctions relief
2. On April 4, 2025, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) allowed the General License 25A to expire. Consequently, any delivery or discharge of petroleum products in ports controlled by the Houthi movement, including Ras Isa, is now considered to be material support to a designated terrorist organization under U.S. sanctions law. Vessels and associated parties found to be involved in such activities are at risk of being listed on the OFAC Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list.
3. Several vessels and their operating companies have already been sanctioned for discharging cargo at Ras Isa following the expiration of the license. OFAC has reiterated that further support to the Houthis, including through maritime delivery of fuel or oil, could subject vessels, owners, operators, insurers, and financiers to U.S. sanctions.
4. In addition to sanctions, the port area remains under high threat due to recent U.S. airstrikes targeting the terminal and retaliatory Houthi attacks. The April 17, 2025, U.S. strike at Ras Isa terminal resulted in over 80 fatalities, including port workers and first responders. The site remains volatile and dangerous for maritime operations.



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5. Vessels currently anchored near to the ports mentioned in paragraph 1 awaiting discharge are advised to assess the full scope of legal and security risks. Departure from the area without discharge may incur commercial penalties, but proceeding may result in exposure to OFAC sanctions.
6. All Panamanian-flagged vessels operating in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and waters near Yemen are urged to:
 - Elevate Security Levels following their Ship Security Plans;
 - Maintain full functionality of AIS and LRIT systems;
 - Avoid any commercial engagement with sanctioned or Houthi-controlled terminals;
 - Report any unusual or hostile activity to compliance@amp.gob.pa.
7. The Panama Maritime Authority strongly advises consultation with legal counsel regarding potential exposure to U.S. or other international sanctions before proceeding to Ras Isa or similar ports under Houthi control.
8. In addition to the legal and sanctions-related risks outlined herein, all Panamanian-flagged vessels operating in or transiting near Yemeni waters are strongly encouraged to review Marine Notice MMN-03/2024. That notice outlines critical operational and security threats in the Red Sea and surrounding areas, including recommendations for vessel protection and threat mitigation.
9. Any inquiries or incident reports should be directed to the Maritime Ship Security Department at: E-mail: compliance@amp.gob.pa. Phone: (507) 501-5016. Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/marine-category/marine-notices/>.



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July, 2025 – Modification in paragraph 1, 5 and 8.

May, 2025 – New.

Inquiries concerning the subject of this Merchant Marine Notice or any other request should be forward to:

Maritime Ship Security Department
General Directorate of Merchant
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5016 Maritime Ship Security Department

E-mail: compliance@amp.gob.pa.

Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/marine-category/marine-notice/>