



Merchant Marine **Notice**

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

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

RISING TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

No: **MMN-04/2025**

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1. This Merchant Marine Notice replaces **MMN-01/2021** – PERSIAN GULF – STRAIT OF HORMUZ – GULF OF OMAN.
 2. The purpose of this Marine Notice is to inform all Panamanian-flagged vessels operating near Iran, Israel, the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and Strait of Hormuz of the security risks due to the recent increase of tensions within the Middle East, which could have a direct impact on vessels and crew.
 3. On June 13, 2025, Israel launched a significant military operation targeting Iranian military and nuclear facilities in different cities, as tensions rise over U.S. efforts to persuade Iran to stop the uranium enrichment program. In response, Iran launched over 100 drones toward Israel, heightened security measures across the country.
 4. Following the attacks, The United States is moving military assets, including ships, to the Middle East in response to Israel's attacks on Iran and a potential retaliatory strike from Tehran.
 5. Due to the above, commercial traffic has been threatened in those areas of the Middle East, for which the Panama Maritime Administration strongly encourages to follow the recommendations listed below and, on the document issued by members of the maritime industry and stake holders;
 - Elevate security levels following their Ship Security Plans and undertake a new ship- and voyage-specific threat risk assessment before entering any of the above-mentioned regions.
 - Review section 2 of BMP5, which outlines non-piracy threats and the Global Counter-Piracy Guidance.

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- Maintain a full and vigilant bridge watches. Note: at night, slow small boats with no wake are difficult to spot on radar.
 - Maintain a strict communication watch and establish communication with all vessels coming close. Do not allow small boats to approach or to come alongside. Use a searchlight for identification at night.
 - Ensure strict boarding controls in place.
 - Only lower accommodation gangways or ladders when necessary.
 - Rig outboard lighting where possible provided when they do not interfere with keeping a safe lookout, particularly over the stern and rig/use searchlights if available.
 - Report any incidents or suspicious activity immediately to both the port and UKMTO +442392222060, in accordance with the Best Management Practices (BMP).
 - Monitor relevant VHF and other communication channels.
 - Check all fire-fighting equipment available for immediate use. Make sure the emergency fire pump is available if any maintenance is being undertaken.
6. Panamanian-flagged vessels are advised to transit near Iran, Israel, the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and Strait of Hormuz with caution and to keep the utmost vigilance and increase security conditions aboard too protect the vessel and its crew.
7. For safety, the Automatic Identification System (AIS) and the Long-Range Identification and Tracking system (LRIT) must be always turned on, except in those cases where the captain considers that the security of the vessel could be compromised or when a security incident is imminent. In accordance with the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), in the same way, VHF Channel 16 must be monitored and communication must be maintained at all times with local authorities and with the Panama Maritime Administration.
8. Considering the continued threat posed by non-state actors in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden—particularly Houthi-related maritime attacks—all Panamanian-flagged vessels operating in or approaching Middle Eastern waters are encouraged to consult Marine Notice MMN-03/2024. That notice outlines critical threat patterns and mitigation strategies for vessels navigating through the Bab al-Mandeb, southern Red Sea, and surrounding high-risk areas.
9. Any inquiries or incident reports should be directed to the Fleet Control and Monitoring Section from Maritime Ships Security Department at E-mail: compliance@amp.gob.pa or phone: (507) 501-5016.



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UKMTO

watchkeepers@ukmto.org

Emergency numbers: +44 (0) 239 222 2060 / +971 50 552 2315

United States Naval Forces Central Command (USNAVCENT)

Naval Co-operation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS)

cusnc.ncags_bw@me.navy.mil

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USNAVCENT Maritime Operations Center (NAVCENT MOC)

+973 1785 3879 / +973 1785 4577 (fleet watch)

July, 2025 – Modification in paragraph 8.

June, 2025 – New. Replaces the Marine Notice MMN-01/2021 – PERSIAN GULF – STRAIT OF HORMUZ – GULF OF OMAN.

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

Fleet Control and Monitoring Section
Maritime Ships Security Department
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5016

E-mail: compliance@amp.gob.pa

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