



Merchant Marine **Notice**

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

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

ISRAELI-HAMAS, LEBANON, IRAN CONFLICT

No: **MMN-08/2023**

1. The Panama Maritime Administration strongly recommends all Panama flag vessels to take all security measures and avoid transiting in the Middle East between Israel, Lebanon and Iran, including the Gaza Strip.
2. On October 7, 2023, the Hamas militant group carried out a surprise attack against Israel, which has created a serious risk to maritime security in this area. One year after the attacks, the security situation in Israel and surrounding areas remains violent and unstable.
3. For those Panama flag vessels in Israeli and Lebanese ports or transiting the above zone must keep the utmost vigilance and increase security conditions aboard in order to protect the vessel and its crew and maintain constant communication with the Port authorities on site.
4. During their stay in port, they must implement all security measures equivalent to Security Level III, as required in their Ship Security Plan in accordance with the ISPS Code.
5. Due to the above, commercial traffic has been threatened, therefore the Panama Maritime Administration strongly recommends following the recommendations listed below and, in any document issue by the Israeli Authorities:
 - Conduct a new ship- and voyage-specific threat risk assessment before entering any region where there has been an incident or the threat has changed.
 - After the risk assessment, review the Vessel Protection Plan.
 - Review section 2 of BMP5, which describes non-piracy threats and the Global Anti-Piracy Guide.
 - Maintain a complete and vigilant watch on the bridge; Note: At night, small, slow vessels without a wake are difficult to detect on radar.
 - Maintain strict surveillance of communications and establish communication with all approaching vessels. Do not allow small boats to approach or dock. Use a reflector to identify yourself at night.
 - Guarantee strict boarding controls.
 - Go down hallways or accommodation stairs only when necessary.
 - Install exterior lights where possible, provided they do not interfere with maintaining a safe lookout, especially aft, and install/use searchlights if available.



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- Prior to commencing sailing, operators and managers should develop plans to respond to GPS disruptions affecting safe navigation, and ensure that seamen on vessels bound for Israel are aware of any imminent security threats in the region. Decisions on crew shore leave should always be made taking into account the prevailing local security situation.
- Conduct frequent checks with local information sources (ship agents, port authority websites) to obtain the most up-to-date and reliable safety information available at any time.
- Report any suspicious activity or objects immediately to both the port and UKMTO +442392222060.
- 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.
- Keep the Automatic Information System (AIS) on. There is no need to complete the field stating the last or next port of call.

6. For safety, the automatic identification system (AIS) and the 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.

7. In those cases that the Captains / S.S.O. and the companies decide and consider the switch off of the aforementioned equipment, they must notify and report the status of the ship and its crew every 4 hours via email to isps@amp.gob.pa

8. We recommend that all vessels follow the instructions of the local authorities regarding the transit of the crew in port areas. Review your communication security plan on board, in case of an unforeseen incident.

9. In the event of any incident or suspicious activity, they must be notified as soon as possible to:

Panama Maritime Authority
Maritime Ships Security Department
Phone: (507) 501-5037 / 5085
E-mail: isps@amp.gob.pa



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October, 2024 - Modification in the title and paragraph 1, 2, 3,6, 8.

October, 2023 – New.

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

Maritime Ships Security Department
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5037 / 5085

E-mail: isps@amp.gob.pa

Website: www.panamashipregistry.com/segumar/merchant-marine-circulars/marine-notice/