



Merchant Marine **Notice**

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

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

PANAMA FLAG VESSELS: RECOMMENDATION TO REVIEW NEW MARITIME GUIDANCE ISSUED BY THE CHINA MSA (MARITIME SAFETY ADMINISTRATION).

No: **MMN-09/2025**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Merchant Marine Notice is to inform all Shipowners, Operators, Legal Representatives of Panama Flag vessels, and Recognized Organizations (ROs) of a new document recently issued by the Maritime Safety Administration of the People's Republic of China (China MSA) that may affect vessels calling Chinese ports or navigating within Chinese waters.

This document contains updated guidance or regulatory instructions regarding maritime operations, port state control inspections, or safety and environmental protection procedures under Chinese jurisdiction.

2. Applicability

This Notice applies to:

All Panamanian-flagged vessels operating in or intending to enter ports or waters under the jurisdiction of the People's Republic of China.

Shipowners, Masters, Operators, Technical Managers, and ROs responsible for ensuring compliance with applicable international and local requirements.

3. Summary of the Document Issued by China MSA

The document, published by the China Maritime Safety Administration through an official government communication platform (WeChat), includes the following:

- Maritime regulatory updates applicable to foreign-flagged vessels operating in Chinese waters;
- Recommendations or requirements related to ship safety, navigation, pollution prevention, and/or Port State Control (PSC) procedures;
- Possible mandatory actions or certifications required before entry or operations within Chinese ports.

4. Actions Recommended

Panama-flagged vessels and their operators are advised to:

- Access the official source of the document via the following link:

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/DeHOLIEm2Tt1QHV7Rwlbcw>

- Review the content carefully and assess whether any operational adjustments are needed;
- Ensure compliance with any updated local requirements or port authority expectations;
- Maintain communication with local agents or authorities in China to avoid unexpected delays or detentions;
- Keep evidence of compliance onboard for potential Port State Control inspections.

5. Onboard Record-Keeping

It is strongly recommended that vessels:

- Keep a copy (or official summary/translation) of the referenced Chinese MSA guidance onboard;
- Record any actions or adjustments made in response to the guidance in the vessel's Safety Management System (SMS) or official logbooks;
- File any relevant communications with port authorities or the Flag State regarding this matter.



Merchant Marine **Notice**

6. Compliance Considerations

Although this MMN does not establish a new mandatory requirement from the Panama Maritime Authority, failure to comply with local regulations while operating in foreign jurisdictions (such as China) may result in:

- Port State Control detentions;
- Fines or operational delays;
- Negative impact on the vessel's PSC record and future inspections.

Owners and operators are reminded to proactively assess and adapt to local regulations to maintain a strong compliance posture.

September, 2025 – New

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

Navigation and Maritime Safety Department
General Directorate of Merchant Marine
Panama Maritime Authority

Phone: (507) 501-5084

E-mail: jmacias@amp.gob.pa

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