



Merchant Marine **Notice**

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

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

VESSELS ARRIVING TO PANAMANIAN WATERS: MANDATORY NOTIFICATIONS, PSC/FSI RE-INSPECTION REQUESTS AND SPECIAL PERMIT PROCEDURES

No: **MMN-10/2025**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Merchant Marine Notice is to inform all Shipowners, Operators, Legal Representatives, Masters, and Shipping Agencies of the procedures and requirements applicable to vessels arriving in Panamanian jurisdictional waters, especially in cases involving Port State Control (PSC) detentions, Flag Safety Inspections (FSI), or special operational conditions.

2. Applicability

This Notice applies to:

- All vessels, regardless of flag, arriving at or operating within Panamanian jurisdictional waters;
- Shipowners, Masters, Operators, Legal Representatives, and Port Agents responsible for port operations and compliance;
- Cases involving operational, mechanical, legal, or safety-related conditions that affect vessel seaworthiness or pose risks to people, property, or the environment.

3. Mandatory Notification for Vessels Arriving in Panamanian Waters

All vessels intending to enter Panamanian waters must notify the Panama Maritime Authority (AMP) in advance, in the following circumstances:

- Intent to perform maintenance, repair, or structural/mechanical modification operations (either afloat or in dry dock);

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- Arrival in an unseaworthy condition, such as:
 - Structural or mechanical damages or malfunctions;
 - Failure in propulsion, steering, or power systems;
 - Damage to superstructure, hull, or critical safety systems;
 - Hazardous cargo, units, or equipment onboard;
 - Labor-related issues onboard (strikes, disputes, or safety concerns);
 - Ongoing legal proceedings affecting vessel operations, detention orders, or crew disembarkation;
 - Any other condition presenting operational or environmental risks.

Notification must be submitted in advance to:

- General Directorate of Merchant Marine -Navigation and Maritime Safety Department (PSC Section), and
- General Directorate of Ports and Maritime Ancillary Industries -(Port Operations Section).

The notification must include all supporting documentation, including but not limited to:

- Technical reports
- Statements from the captain and/or engineer
- Repair plans
- Photographs
- Any other pertinent supporting documentation

4. Request for PSC/Flag Safety Re-Inspection

If a vessel is detained by PSC or Flag Safety Inspection (FSI), the operator must formally request a re-inspection, complying with the following:

- Submit a written request addressed to both PSC and FSII sections, including:
 - Vessel name, IMO number, and call sign;
 - Current vessel location;
 - Proposed re-inspection date;
 - List of deficiencies and evidence of corrective actions.

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- Pay the applicable fee of B/. 500.00 (five hundred Balboas), in accordance with Resolution J.D. No. 003-2020 (June 2005).

Note: This fee applies only to PSC re-inspections; FSI re-inspections are not subject to this charge.

- Payment can be made at any General Directorate of Merchant Marine office nationwide or via bank transfer.
- Re-inspections are carried out only during regular business hours (Monday–Friday).

5. Request for Special Permit for Movement of Detained Vessels

For any movement or relocation of a detained vessel, a special permit must be requested, as follows:

- Submit a written request to both PSC and FSI sections, indicating:
 - Vessel name, IMO number, and call sign;
 - Current vessel location;
 - Intended destination;
 - Requested date for movement;
 - Detailed justification for the movement.

6. Contact and Submission Channels

All notifications and requests must be submitted through the official channels:

- Port State Control (PSC): psc@amp.gob.pa
- Port Operations Department: dop@amp.gob.pa
- Flag State Inspection Section (FSI): asi@amp.gob.pa

7. Final Remarks

The Panama Maritime Authority appreciates your cooperation in complying with these requirements, which aim to ensure:

- Maritime safety within Panamanian waters;
- Environmental protection;
- Adherence to international and national maritime obligations.



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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/>