Subject: Panama MMN -03/2022 Reg. Ukrainian and Russian waters in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov.

1. In view of the ongoing situation occurring between Russian and Ukrainian Governments, Panama Maritime Administration strongly recommends all Panama flagged vessels to take all security measures and avoid transiting through Ukrainian and Russian waters in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov.

2. On 22 July 2022, the Republic of Turkey, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United Nations signed the Initiative on the safe export of foodstuffs and fertilizers, including ammonia, from Ukrainian ports.

3. The Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) of the UN's Black Sea Grain Initiative has approved the "Procedures for Merchant Vessels". The procedures are mandatory requirements pursuant to the SOLAS Regulation XI-2/11 and the ISPS Code, Part A, section 4.2 and Part B, section 4.26, as a condition of port entry or departure to or from the Ukrainian ports.

4. Shipping companies that decide to move their ships based on business activity and procedures must apply to the Ukrainian port authorities and follow the complete instructions of the BLACK SEA GRAIN INITIATIVE – JOINT COORDINATION CENTRE PROCEDURES FOR MERCHANT VESSEL. The Joint Coordination Center will authorize the movement of ships in and out of the Black Sea based on such requests.

5. Panama Administration has advised that in case of any Panamanian registry vessel that wishes to apply for departure from Ukrainian ports and their technical certificates are expired or audits/inspections have not been carried out, they must contact the Panama Maritime Authority, Segumar Offices (extensions@segumar.com or conditionals@segumar.com) for the corresponding instruction.

6. The Panama Maritime Authority, aware of the situation, is in constant communication with the International Maritime Organization to ensure and guarantee a safe exit for all ships that are within Ukrainian and Russian waters in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, including port facilities.

7. Recently, the Russian Federation Maritime Administration has prohibited the passage of loaded ships exiting the Russian Federation territory through the Kerch Strait to the Azov Sea, for which Panama-registered ships are advised to avoid such area and coordinate with the local agent for any movement.

8. Due to the current situation in the areas of the Black Sea, Sea of Azov and its surroundings, the Panama Maritime Administration requires all Panama registered vessels to raise the level of security according to the ship's Security Plan and to take extreme measures of safety and security for both the ship and its crew.

9. The Sea of Azov remains closed for navigation, although some vessels are allowed by Russian authorities to transit the area. 1.

10. For those Panamanian vessels in Ukrainian Ports or transiting the above zone must keep the utmost vigilance and increase security conditions aboard too protect the vessel and its crew.

11. Port operations in the ports of Ukraine are limited and intended for the transport of grains, as expressed in international media, for which the Panama registered vessels that are in these ports and their crews must remain in port until the Ukrainian authorities grant permission for departure or dismemberment of the crew. 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. Currently, ships are not allowed to enter or leave the ports.

12. Panama Administration has reaffirmed to avoid any transit or operation within the Black Sea, Sea of Azov and its surroundings.

13. 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.

14. 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 nardila@amp.gob.pa and isps@amp.gob.pa

15. Further, the Panama Maritime Administration strongly encourage following the recommendations listed below and, on the document issued by members of the maritime industry and stake holders, including the information posted in https://channel16.dryadglobal.com/risk-of-collateral-damage-in-northwest-black-sea-mine-warning-areas?hsLang=en.

   a) Undertake a new ship and voyage-specific threat risk assessment before entering any region where there has been an incident or the threat has changed.
   b) After the risk assessment, review the Ship's Security Plan.

c) Review section 2 of BMP5, which outlines non-piracy threats and the Global Counter-Piracy Guidance.
d) Maintain a full and vigilant bridge watches.
e) Maintain a strict communication watch and establish communication with all vessels coming close.
f) Ensure strict boarding controls in place.
g) Only lower accommodation gangways or ladders when necessary.
h) 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.
i) Monitoring Channel 16 t VHF and other communication channels.
j) Review communication notices on mined areas at https://armada.defensa.gob.es/ihm/Aplicaciones/Navareas/Index_Navareas_xml_en.html and contact local port authorities for additional information.
k) Check all fire-fighting equipment available for immediate use. Make sure the emergency fire pump is available if any maintenance is being undertaken.
l) Keep the Automatic Information System (AIS) and LRIT working properly, in order to be able to continuously send positions of the vessels.

16. The boarding of security companies that provide armed personnel on board Panama registered vessels in Ukrainian and Russian waters is prohibited.

17. All vessels are advised to follow the instructions of the local authorities regarding the transit of the crew in port areas and review the communication security plan on board, in case of an unforeseen incident.

18. 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, nardila@amp.gob.pa
OTAN
info@shipping.nato.int
+44 (0) 1923-956574

19. Owners/ managers and masters of Panama flagged vessels are advised to take note of the above requirements and ensure compliance.

20. **This Technical Circular supersedes and revokes earlier Technical Circular No. 018/2022, dated 11th March 2022.**

Enclosure:
1. Panama MMN-03/2022.

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UKRAINIAN AND RUSSIAN WATERS IN THE BLACK SEA AND SEA OF AZOV

No: **MMN-03/2022**

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1. The Panama Maritime Administration strongly recommends all Panamanian-flagged vessels to take all security measures and avoid transiting through Ukrainian and Russian waters in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

2. On 22 Jul 2022 the Republic of Türkiye, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United Nations signed the Initiative on the safe export of foodstuffs and fertilizers, including ammonia, from Ukrainian ports.

3. The Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) of the UN's Black Sea Grain Initiative has approved the "Procedures for Merchant Vessels". The procedures are mandatory requirements pursuant to the SOLAS Regulation XI-2/11 and the ISPS Code, Part A, section 4.2 and Part B, section 4.26, as a condition of port entry or departure to or from the Ukrainian ports.

4. The humanitarian maritime corridor is 111 nautical miles long and 3 nautical miles wide. Vessels authorized by the Joint Coordination Center to circulate through the corridor must remain in the corridor or in defined holding areas off the Ukrainian and Turkish coasts.

5. Shipping companies that decide to move their ships based on business activity and procedures must apply to the Ukrainian port authorities and follow the complete instructions of the [BLACK SEA GRAIN INITIATIVE – JOINT COORDINATION CENTRE PROCEDURES FOR MERCHANT VESSEL.](#) The Joint Coordination Center will authorize the movement of ships in and out of the Black Sea based on such requests.

6. In case of any Panamanian registry vessel that wishes to apply for departure from Ukrainian ports and their technical certificates are expired or audits/inspections have not been carried out, they must contact the Panama Maritime Authority, Segumar Offices (extensions@segumar.com or conditionals@segumar.com) for the

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Albrook, Panama City
Republic of Panama

in **Panama Ship Registry**
🐦 **@ShipPanama**

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corresponding instruction. For more information see the [Black Sea Grain Initiative Joint Coordination Centre Frequently Asked Questions.](#)

7. The Panama Maritime Authority, aware of the situation, is in constant communication with the International Maritime Organization to ensure and guarantee a safe exit for all ships that are within Ukrainian and Russian waters in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, including port facilities.

8. Recently, the Russian Federation Maritime Administration has prohibited the passage of loaded ships exiting the Russian Federation territory through the Kerch Strait to the Azov Sea, for which Panama-registered ships are advised to avoid such area and coordinate with the local agent for any movement.

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13. It is reaffirmed to avoid any transit or operation within the Black Sea, Sea of Azov and its surroundings.

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   • Keep the Automatic Information System (AIS) and LRIT working properly, in order to be able to continuously send positions of the vessels.

17. The boarding of security companies that provide armed personnel on board Panama registered vessels in Ukrainian and Russian waters is prohibited.

18. 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.

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info@shipping.nato.int
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November, 2022 – *Inclusion of paragraph 8.*
August, 2022 – *Inclusion of paragraphs 2,3,4,5,6 and modification of paragraphs 9,10, 11,15 and 18.*
May, 2022 – *Modification of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.*
March, 2022 – *Inclusion of paragraph 3, 9 and 11.*
March, 2022 - *Modification of paragraph 8 and new paragraphs 2,4,5,6,7 and 9.*
February, 2022 – *New.*

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

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

Phone: (507) 501-5037 / 5085
E-mail: isps@amp.gob.pa
Website: https://panamashipregistry.com/marine-category/marine-notices/

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