



# Technical Circular

No.: 036/2021

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Subject: Panama MMN-14/2021 Reg. Flag State Annual Safety Inspection for Vessels transiting through Panama with destination in the United States.**

1. Panama Maritime Administration with a view that ships under their registry can attain the US Coast Guard QUALSHIP 21 status, has made it compulsory for all Panamanian flagged vessels transiting or visiting Panamanian ports prior to their arrival to the United States to undergo a Flag Annual Safety Inspection (ASI) as soon as they arrive at any port or terminal in Panama.
2. As provided in the Notice, non-compliance with the provisions of the above requirement will be subject to sanction by the Administration. Refusing for the first time carries a penalty of 10,000.00 USD. The recurrence will be grounds for the cancellation of the Panamanian registry immediately.
3. Ship owners/ operators and masters of Panama flagged vessels are advised to be guided by above and ensure compliance.

**Enclosure:** Panama MMN-14/2021



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# Merchant Marine **Notice**

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

F-34  
(DCCM)  
V.04

## **FLAG ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION FOR VESSELS TRANSITTING THROUGH PANAMA WITH DESTINATION IN THE UNITED STATES**

No: **MMN-14/2021**

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1. As you are aware the United States Coast Guard implemented an initiative to identify high-quality ships and flags to provide incentives and encourage quality operations. This initiative is called QUALSHIP-21, and through this initiative, high-quality vessels should be recognized and rewarded for their commitment to safety and quality by the USCG.
2. Panama is currently striving to belong in the QUALSHIP-21 program; however, we have detected an increase of detentions in vessels arriving in the United States in the past months due to easily fixable deficiencies. These detentions are due to lack of preparedness for an examination, general knowledge of vessel's crew to successfully demonstrate normal shipboard equipment procedures during an inspection and general lifesaving appliances ready for immediate use.
3. For the aforementioned and in order to attain the QUALSHIP-21 status for the USCG, this Administration has decided that is compulsory that all Panamanian flag vessels transiting or visiting Panamanian ports prior to their arrival to the United States; have to conduct a Flag Annual Safety Inspection (ASI) as soon as they arrive at any port or terminal in Panama.
4. Non-compliance with the provisions of this marine notice will be subject to sanction. Refusing for the first time carries a penalty of 10,000.00 USD. The recurrence will be grounds for the cancellation of the Panamanian registry immediately.

**June, 2021 – New.**



# Merchant Marine **Notice**

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

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