



# Technical Circular

No.: 016/2022

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**Subject: Merchant Marine Notice MMN-02/2022 Reg. Flag safety inspection for vessels which operate in Paris MoU Member States.**

1. Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) vide Merchant Marine Notice, MMN-02/2022 has informed that there has been an increase in the number of detentions of Panama flagged vessels within the Paris MoU jurisdiction.
2. Amongst other reasons, the most common factor related to detention is noted to be the vessel's age. Vessels older than 20 years of age were the most detained vessels.
3. In view of above and in order to maintain the Panama's white list status in the Paris MoU, PMA has decided that all Panama flagged vessels over 20 years of age that arrive at any port in the countries that are signatories of Paris MoU will be subjected to a **Flag Safety Inspection (ASI) each six (6) months.**
4. Flag Safety Inspection (ASI) will be undertaken by duly approved ASI inspectors holding an Authorization to carry out this flag inspection. The inspection will be done in situ and no remote flag inspection will be allowed.
5. The above campaign is temporary and is aimed at preventing possible PSC detentions, and/or delays to Panama flagged vessels.
6. Further, the Panama Maritime Authority has informed that non-compliance with the provisions of Marine Notice 02/2022 will be subject to monetary and administrative sanctions and if there is recurrence found, the removal/cancellation of the vessel from the flag registry may be applicable.
7. Owners / Operators and Masters of Panama flagged vessels are advised to take note of the above and ensure compliance.

**Enclosure:**

1. Merchant marine notice MMN-02/2022.



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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 SAFETY INSPECTION FOR VESSELS WHICH OPERATE IN PARIS MOU MEMBER STATES**

No: **MMN-02/2022**

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1. As you are aware the Paris MoU implemented an initiative to identify high-quality ships and flag registries by providing incentives to encourage quality operations. This initiative is called White List, and through this initiative, high-quality vessels should be recognized and rewarded for their commitment to safety and quality.
2. Panama currently belongs to the Paris MoU White List; however, we have detected an increase on detentions within the Paris MoU jurisdiction. We have detected also that among other reasons that one of the most common factor is related to the vessel's age. Being the most detained vessel, those older than 20 years of construction.
3. For the aforementioned and in order to maintain our whitelist status in the Paris MoU, this Administration has decided that all Panama flag vessels over 20 years of age that arrive at any port in the countries that are signatories of this MoU, shall be subject to a Flag safety inspection (ASI) each six (6) months.
4. Ship-owners are requested to provide full support to the duly approved ASI inspectors holding an Authorization to carry out this flag inspection. The inspection must be done in situ, no remote flag inspection should be allowed, and a full report must be sent through the platform and/or to our navigation and maritime safety department in cases where deficiencies are found and actions from the master, crew or company is requested.
5. This campaign is temporarily and is preventing possible detentions, and / or delays to vessels of the Panama Flag Registry.
6. Non-compliance with the provisions of this marine notice will be subject to monetary and administrative sanctions and if there is recurrence found, the removal/cancellation of the vessel from the flag registry may be applicable.



# Merchant Marine **Notice**

*February, 2022 – New.*

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