



# Technical Circular

No.: 031/2025

Date: 04<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Subject: Panama Merchant Marine Notice MMN-08/2025 Reg. Mandatory notification to flag and next port authorities, and onboard record keeping of resolving port state control (PSC) inspections findings.**

1. The Panama Maritime Administration has issued MMN-08/2025 giving information regarding mandatory procedure to be followed in the following cases:
  - a. Notifying the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) upon the occurrence of any onboard damage, malfunction, or deficiency that may affect the vessel's seaworthiness, safety, or compliance with applicable international instruments.
  - b. Notifying the competent port authorities at the next port of call, especially if the vessel is arriving with any unresolved damage, malfunction, or deficiency
  - c. Maintain an onboard file with records and supporting documentation proving the closure of deficiencies from previous Port State Control (PSC) inspections.
2. Upon detection of any onboard damage or malfunction as defined above, the Master or designated officer must immediately notify the Panama Maritime Authority, through any of the following channels:
  - Segumar Offices Contact Points (24/7 Global Coverage) as provided in MMN-18/2021
  - Navigation and Maritime Safety Department: E-mail: [fsc@amp.gob.pa](mailto:fsc@amp.gob.pa) / Phone: +(507) 501-5031
3. The flag administration notification report to include the following items:
  - Vessel Name, IMO Number, and Call Sign.
  - Current Position (Latitude/Longitude or Port).
  - Description and cause (if known) of the issue.
  - Potential impact on the vessel's safety, operation, or seaworthiness.
  - Intended corrective actions or planned repairs.
  - Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) at the next port.
4. The master of the vessel to also notify the Next Port Authorities upon detection of any onboard damage or malfunction, especially if the vessel is arriving with any unresolved damage, malfunction, or deficiency:
  - No later than 24 hours before arrival, or



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. While we have taken utmost care to be as factual as possible, readers/ users are advised to verify the exact text and content of the Regulation from the original source/ issuing Authority.

- Immediately, if the issue occurs within 24 hours of the vessel's ETA.
  - It is important to take into consideration that specific Port State Control (PSC) authorities may have particular notification requirements, including defined timeframes for reporting. Vessels must ensure compliance with the applicable regulations of the port of arrival.
5. The notification to Port Authority to include:
    - Vessel identification (name and call sign).
    - Nature and scope of the damage or malfunction.
    - Impact on navigation, safety, or compliance.
    - Proposed course of action (e.g., repairs, deviation, request for safe haven).
    - Estimated arrival details.
    - Any communication with the Flag notifying this matters.
  6. Vessels to maintain an onboard PSC Compliance File, which includes
    - Most recent Port State Control (PSC) inspection reports, recommended to include at least those from the last three (3) years.
    - Documentation confirming corrective actions and closure of previously identified deficiencies.
    - Copies of communication with ROs, Flag State, and port authorities
    - Evidence of repairs or remedial measures taken (e.g., invoices, reports, photos).
  7. Ship owners/ operators and masters of all Panamanian- flagged ships are advised to be guided by above and ensure compliance.

**Enclosure:**

1. Panama Marine Notice MMN-08/2025

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# Merchant Marine **Notice**

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

F-34  
(DCCM)  
V.04

## **PANAMA FLAG VESSEL'S: MANDATORY NOTIFICATION TO FLAG AND NEXT PORT AUTHORITIES, AND ONBOARD RECORD KEEPING OF RESOLVING PORT STATE CONTROL (PSC) INSPECTIONS FINDINGS.**

No: **MMN-08/2025**

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1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Notice is to communicate to all Shipowners/Operators, Legal Representatives of Panama Flag Vessels, and Recognized Organizations (ROs) the mandatory procedures for all vessels flying the Panamanian flag to:
  - 1.1 Immediately notify the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) upon the occurrence of any onboard damage, malfunction, or deficiency that may affect the vessel's seaworthiness, safety, or compliance with applicable international instruments.
  - 1.2 Notify the competent port authorities at the next port of call, especially if the vessel is arriving with any unresolved damage, malfunction, or deficiency.
  - 1.3 Maintain an onboard file with records and supporting documentation proving the closure of deficiencies from previous Port State Control (PSC) inspections.
2. This Notice applies to:
  - 2.1 All vessels registered under the Panamanian flag, regardless of size, type, or trading area (international or domestic).
  - 2.2 All owners, operators, Masters, Chief Engineers, and Recognized Organizations (ROs) responsible for vessel compliance and operational safety.
3. Mandatory Notifications.
  - 3.1 Notification to the Flag Administration (PMA).
    - 3.1.1 Upon detection of any onboard damage or malfunction as defined above, the Master or designated officer must immediately notify the Panama Maritime Authority, through any of the following channels:
      - Segumar Offices Contact Points (24/7 Global Coverage):  
[MMN-18/2021](#)
      - Navigation and Maritime Safety Department:  
E-mail: [fsc@amp.gob.pa](mailto:fsc@amp.gob.pa) / Phone: +(507) 501-5031

### 3.2 The report may include:

- Vessel Name, IMO Number, and Call Sign.
- Current Position (Latitude/Longitude or Port).
- Description and cause (if known) of the issue.
- Potential impact on the vessel's safety, operation, or seaworthiness.
- Intended corrective actions or planned repairs.
- Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) at the next port.

### 3.3 Notification to the Next Port State Control Authorities.

#### 3.3.1 The Master must also notify the Next Port Authorities:

- No later than 24 hours before arrival, or
- Immediately, if the issue occurs within 24 hours of the vessel's ETA.
- It is important to take into consideration that specific Port State Control (PSC) authorities may have particular notification requirements, including defined timeframes for reporting. Vessels must ensure compliance with the applicable regulations of the port of arrival.

### 3.4 The notification may include:

- Vessel identification (name and call sign).
- Nature and scope of the damage or malfunction.
- Impact on navigation, safety, or compliance.
- Proposed course of action (e.g., repairs, deviation, request for safe haven).
- Estimated arrival details.
- Any communication with the Flag notifying this matters.

## 4. Onboard Record-Keeping Requirements.

### 4.1 All Panamanian-flagged vessels must maintain an onboard PSC Compliance File, which includes:

- Most recent Port State Control (PSC) inspection reports, recommended to include at least those from the last three (3) years.
- Documentation confirming corrective actions and closure of previously identified deficiencies.
- Copies of communication with ROs, Flag State, and port authorities
- Evidence of repairs or remedial measures taken (e.g., invoices, reports, photos).



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- 4.2 This file must be readily available for inspection by PSC officers, Class surveyors, or Flag State inspectors.
5. Compliance and Enforcement.
- 5.1 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Notice may result in administrative or disciplinary measures imposed by the Panama Maritime Authority, including:
- Prohibitions for Sailing.
  - De-registration from the Panamanian registry.
- 5.2 Intentional non-reporting or misrepresentation of vessel conditions will be considered a serious violation.

**August, 2025 – New.**

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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](mailto:jmacias@amp.gob.pa)

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