



Technical Circular

No.: 054/2022

Date: 16th August 2022

Subject: Merchant Marine Notice MMN-08/2022 Reg. Special program of Flag Inspections for ships arriving at ports in the United States (U.S.)

1. Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) has issued Merchant Marine Notice, MMN-08/2022 informing that with effect from **01 August 2022**, a special program of flag inspections will be implemented for ships arriving at ports in the United States and having history (Detentions, Deficiencies, RO, Company, Type of ship, Age, etc.) which makes them candidates for Port State Inspection (PSC) by the USCG.
2. The purpose of the inspection is to avoid detentions and achieve the Q21 program.
3. Shipowners, Managers, Operators and masters are therefore urged to ensure that any ships calling at ports in the USA are fully prepared for the possibility of a PSC inspection by the USCG.
4. For this special flag inspection, if required, the Shipowners/Managers/Operator will bear the travel, food, and lodging expenses of the PMA Flag Inspector designated to attend to their ships.
5. PMA has informed that 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 PMA registry immediately.
6. Owners / Operators and Masters of Panama flagged vessels are advised to be guided by above.

Enclosure:

1. Merchant marine notice MMN-08/2022.

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Merchant Marine **Notice**

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

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

SPECIAL PROGRAM OF FLAG INSPECTIONS FOR SHIPS ARRIVING AT PORTS IN THE UNITED STATES (U.S.)

No: **MMN-08/2022.**

1. The Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) has the commitment complies with international safety, security and environmental regulations for a better maritime industry, for this reason, PMA has made efforts to eliminate substandard ships and has focused on improving efforts to ingress United States Coast Guard (USCG) QUALSHIP 21 (Q21) program.
2. With this goal we inform that from August 01th, 2022 the PMA start a special program of flag inspections will be implemented for ships arriving at ports in the United States (US), and whose history of the ship (detentions, deficiencies, recognized organization (RO), company, type of ship, age, etc.) makes them candidates for an Port State Inspection (PSC) by part of the USCG.
3. The purpose of the inspection will be to avoid detentions and achieve the Q21 program and recognized and rewarded for their commitment to safety and quality to these high-quality vessels.
4. Shipowners, Managers, Operator, RO and Ships of PMA registered ships are therefore urged to ensure that any ships calling at ports in the USA are fully prepared for the possibility of a PSC inspection by the USCG.
5. If required, that the Shipowners/Managers/Operator will assume the travel, food, and lodging expenses of the PMA Flag Inspector designated to attend to their ships.
6. 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 PMA registry immediately.
7. Our Administration encourages ship owners, operators and masters to review the information provided on this Marine Notice.

July, 2022 – New

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) 501-5031

E-mail: jlortega@amp.gob.pa

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