

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

F-34
(DCCM)
V.04

PERSIAN GULF – STRAIT OF HORMUZ - GULF OF OMAN

No: **MMN-01/2021**

1. The Panama Maritime Administration strongly encourages all Panama Flagged vessels transiting the Gulf of Oman, Straits of Hormuz, and those near Fujairah, UAE to continue on maintaining the utmost vigilance and increased security conditions aboard, in case to be necessary in order to protect the vessel and crew during the time of passage in these waters.
2. On May 3, 2023, the Panamanian-flagged vessel NIOVI was forcibly seized by the Iranian Islamic Army Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGCN) while transiting the Strait of Hormuz. Currently, the M/V NIOVI is being held by the Iranian authorities in an unknown place, for this reason this Administration emphatically recommends to all Shipowners, Owners and Captains of any Panamanian-flagged vessel to take the necessary precautions while operate/navigate/navigate or trade between these areas.
3. Due to the above, commercial traffic has been threatened in those areas of the Middle East, for which the Panama Maritime Administration strongly encourages to follow the recommendations listed below and, on [the document issued by members of the maritime industry and stake holders](#):
 - 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.
 - After the risk assessment, review the Ship's Security Plan.
 - Review section 2 of BMP5, which outlines non-piracy threats and the Global Counter-Piracy Guidance.
 - Maintain a full and vigilant bridge watches; Note: at night, slow small boats with no wake are difficult to spot on radar.
 - Maintain a strict communication watch and establish communication with all vessels coming close. Do not allow small boats to approach or to come alongside. Use a searchlight for identification at night.
 - Ensure strict boarding controls in place.
 - Only lower accommodation gangways or ladders when necessary.

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- 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.
- Report any suspicious activity or objects immediately to both the port and UKMTO +442392222060.
- Monitor relevant VHF and other communication channels.
- Check all fire-fighting equipment available for immediate use. Make sure the emergency fire pump is available if any maintenance is being undertaken.
- Keep the Automatic Information System (AIS) on. There is no need to complete the field stating the last or next port of call.

4. Additionally, we want to remind all Panama flag vessels transiting the Gulf of Oman, Straits of Hormuz, and those near Fujairah, UAE that according to Merchant Marine Circulars, all Panama flagged vessels under the SOLAS V/19 regulation must comply with LRIT requirements and the AIS requirements. This Administration urges all ship-owners, operators, Company Security Officers (CSO) and Ship Security Officers to verify that the LRIT System and the AIS works properly at all times, in order to be able to continuously send positions of the vessels.

5. All Panama flag ships trading on these areas will be expected to comply in accordance with the international requirements related to position reporting, and the Panama Maritime Authority may penalize violations to such provisions according to the national legislation, if they fail to formally report through LRIT and AIS to our Administration at a proper time.

UKMTO

watchkeepers@ukmto.org.

Emergency numbers: +44 (0) 239 222 2060 / +971 50 552 2315.

United States Naval Forces Central Command (USNAVCENT)**Naval Co-operation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS)**

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USNAVCENT Maritime Operations Center (NAVCENT MOC)

+973 1785 3879 / +973 1785 4577 (fleet watch)

May, 2023 – Modification of paragraph 2 and 3.

August, 2021 – Modification of paragraph 2 and 3

January, 2021.

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

Maritime Ships Security Department
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Website: <https://panamashipregistry.com/marine-category/marine-notices/>