



Palau Ship Registry

MARINE CIRCULAR 216.1 SHIP SECURITY ADVISORY No. 26.01

Date: 3 March 2026

TO: OWNERS/OPERATORS, MASTERS, COMPANY SECURITY OFFICERS, REPRESENTATIVES, RECOGNIZED SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: IMMEDIATE ELEVATION OF SHIP SECURITY LEVEL - MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE ARABIAN GULF, GULF OF OMAN, STRAIT OF HORMUZ, AND ARABIAN SEA

1. OVERVIEW

On February 28th, significant military activity and operations involving the United States (US), Israel, and Iranian forces commenced in the following geographic areas:

- Arabian/Persian Gulf;
- Gulf of Oman;
- North Arabian Sea;
- Strait of Hormuz (SoH);
- Red Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb (BeM), and
- Gulf of Aden (GoA).

Elevated threat environment has been confirmed by the US Maritime Administration (MARAD) according to [MSCI Alert 2026-001A](#) and the United Kingdom Marine Trade Operations (UKMTO), according to [Advisory 003-26 \(Update 001\)](#).

The situation in the above areas is extremely dynamic. Electronic interference, including disruption to Automatic Identification System (AIS), Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), and other navigational and communications systems, has been reported throughout the region. Risk of vessel misidentification by hostile forces is elevated.



2. SHIP SECURITY LEVEL DIRECTIVE

According to the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code and Marine Notice 228, as amended, Palau Ship Registry Administration hereby directs that all Palau-flagged vessels operating in or intending to transit the High-threat Areas **shall immediately implement Ship Security Level III, or any equivalent port facility security measures upon arrival.**

The directive is effective immediately and is including the Red Sea, BeM, GoA, Arabian/Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, SoH, North Arabian Sea, and the waters and ports of Israel.

Due to intense military tensions, missile threats, and potential mining in the above areas, the Palau Ship Registry Administration highly recommends commercial vessels to avoid the Strait of Hormuz, Persian Gulf, and Gulf of Oman and seek for safe, alternative ports recommended for waiting or re-routing.

3. ACTIONS AND REPORTING REQUIRED

According to the present Ship Security Advisory, vessels operating in or transiting toward the High Risk Areas shall:

- 3.1. implement Ship Security Level III measures in their Ship Security Plans (SSP) immediately and notify the Palau Ship Registry Administration at info@palaushipreg.com & emergency@palaushipreg.com;
- 3.2. all security level changes should be reported directly to the Palau Ship Registry Administration by the Master via email info@palaushipreg.com & emergency@palaushipreg.com;
- 3.3. Masters / mariners should note the potential for elevated electronic interference, including disruption to AIS and other navigational or communications systems;
- 3.4. maintain a continuous listening watch on VHF Channel 16 and be prepared to respond to hails from coalition military forces;
- 3.5. maintain a standoff of at least 30 nautical miles from US Navy units to reduce the risk of misidentification as a threat;
- 3.6. monitor for AIS and navigational system anomalies and employ alternative positioning methods;
- 3.7. register vessels in the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) - a primary point of contact for merchant vessels in the region:

Email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org; and ukmto@eim.ae
Phone: +44 - 2392-222060, +971-50-552-3215
Fax +44 1923 958520



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- 3.8. contact the Maritime Security Centre – Indian Ocean (MSCIO):

Email: postmaster@mscio.eu

Phone: +33 (0) 298220220, +33 (0) 298220170

- 3.9. contact [US Naval Forces Central Command \(NAVCENT\)](#) and [Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping \(NCAGS\)](#) for the latest situational awareness prior to entering the High-threat Areas.
- 3.10. conduct an immediate threat and risk assessment and evaluate whether transit should be deferred pending further guidance.

4. INCIDENT REPORTING

All security incidents and suspicious activity must be reported to the Palau Ship Registry Administration immediately at info@palaushipreg.com & emergency@palaushipreg.com.

Further Guidance and References:

- U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration - MARAD MSCI Alert [2026-001A](#) (28 Feb 2026);
- UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Advisory [003-26](#) Update 001 (28 Feb 2026);
- Marine Notice 228, as amended – International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code)
- Marine Circular 212, as amended – Security Advisory on Security in The Red Sea Gulf of Aden Arabian Sea and Bab El Mandeb.