

Palau International Ship Registry



Europe Head Office
Piraeus, 18536, Greece
5, Sachtouri Street
6th floor
T: +30 210 4293500
F: +30 210 4293505

USA Head Office
The Woodlands, TX,
77380
9595 Six Pines Drive,
Suite 8210, Office 277
T: +1 832 631 6061
F: +1 832 631 6001

info@palaureg.com

www.palaureg.com

MEMO 151.1 – SHIP SECURITY ADVISORY

Date: February 25th, 2022

To: SHIPOWNERS, MANAGERS, MASTERS, CSOs OF PALAU FLAGGED SHIPS,
DEPUTY REGISTRARS AND RECOGNIZED SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS.

Subject: LEVEL 3 SECURITY ALERT FOR SHIPS DUE TO GEOPOLITICAL CONFLICT -
UKRAINE, BLACK SEA, SEA OF AZOV

REFERENCES:

- NATO shipping Centre - [Situation on the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov](#)
- [U.S. Maritime Advisory No. 2022-002](#) - Black Sea and Sea of Azov
- Risk Intelligence - [Russia-Ukraine situation: Implications for shipping and port operations](#)
- [Joint War Committee](#) - JWLA-028 Black Sea and Sea of Azov

With an immediate effect, and subject to the provisions of chapter XI-2, regulations 3 & 7 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 as amended, the Ship Administration of the Republic of Palau is requiring a setting of **SHIP SECURITY LEVEL III** for all Palau-registered vessels operating in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Ukraine or Russia within the Black Sea. This requirement will be closely monitored and subject to proper amendment according to the situation.

As per February 22, 2022, ship movements, restrictions and cargo operations are suspended at Mariupol and Berdyansk. Seafarers are also not permitted to leave their ships. Yeisk, Rostov, Taganrog, and relevant Ukrainian ports may not be accessible. As access is denied by Russian military forces, commercial vessels should not attempt to enter the Sea of Azov.

Company Security Officers (CSOs) and Ship Security Officers (SSOs) should obtain security level information prior to entering ports through the appropriate Port Authorities. Ships should comply with the Port Facility security level if it is higher than the security level set onboard.



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GUIDANCE:

- a) For Palau flagged vessels trading in Russian or Ukrainian ports, ship masters are strongly advised to contact local agents for the latest advisories.
- b) Commercial vessels are advised to avoid any transit or operation within the EEZ of Ukraine or Russia within the Black Sea. Access to the Sea of Azov through the Kerch Strait is currently blocked by Russian forces.
- c) In case a vessel is located at a Ukrainian port, plans to depart should be arranged as soon as safely possible, as all Ukrainian ports have been closed by the Ukrainian military.
- d) Access to the northwest Black Sea, north of 45° 21' is restricted by the Russian Navy.
- e) Vessels must ensure the automatic identification system (AIS) is always transmitting, in accordance with provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), and monitor VHF Channel 16. Exceptions are accepted only if the master believes that continuing to operate AIS might put in risk the safety or security of the ship or when a security incident is imminent).
- f) In case a vessel is challenged by Russian military, it is strongly recommended to comply fully with instructions.
- g) While operating in the Black Sea, armed security personnel are not to be embarked.

REPORTING:

In the event of any incident or suspicious activity, Palau flagged vessels should notify the Palau International Ship Registry Administrator, the NATO Shipping Center (NSC) and activate the Ship Security Alert System.

NATO Shipping Centre	info@shipping.nato.int	+44 (0) 1923-956574
Palau Ship Registry Administrator	technical@palaureg.com info@palaureg.com	+3 (0) 2104293500

