

Palau International Ship Registry



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MARINE NOTICE 163.2

**To: ALL SHIPOWNERS, MANAGERS, MASTERS, DEPUTY REGISTRARS,
AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS.**

Subject: REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIP-TO-SHIP OPERATION PLANS

1. Reference

1.1 MARPOL, Annex I, Chapter 8, Consolidated Edition 2011

2. Purpose

2.1 This Marine Notice summarizes the requirements of Palau Ship Registry Administrator regarding operations plans, including plan approval, for transfer of oil cargo as required under MARPOL Annex I Chapter 8.

3. Applicability

3.1 This Marine Notice applies to oil tankers of 150 GRT and above engaged in the transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers at sea (STS Operations), except for:

- Oil transfer operations associated with fixed or floating platforms including drilling rigs, floating production, storage and offloading facilities used for the offshore production and storage of oil as well as floating storage units used for the offshore storage of produced oil;
- Bunkering operations;
- STS operations necessary for the purpose of securing the safety of a ship or saving life at sea, or for combating specific pollution incidents.
- STS operations where either of the ships involved is a warship, naval auxiliary or other ship owned or operated by the State and being used for government non-commercial service.

4. Requirements for STS Operation Plan (Regulation 41)

4.1 Any oil tanker subject to MARPOL Annex I, Chapter 8 involved in STS operations shall carry on board an STS operations Plan prescribing how to conduct STS operations. Each oil tanker's STS operations Plan shall be approved by the Palau Ship Registry Administrator or by a Recognized Organization approved by Palau Ship Registry Administrator. The STS operations Plan shall be written in both the working language of the ship and in English.



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- 4.2 The STS operations Plan shall be developed taking into account the information contained in the best practice guidelines, as updated from time-to-time, for STS operations identified by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The STS operations Plan may be incorporated into an existing Safety Management System (SMS) required by Chapter IX of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended, if that requirement is applicable to the oil tanker in question.
- 4.3 The presence of an up-to-date approved STS operations Plan is to be verified by the RO responsible for the IOPP certificate before issuing a new certificate at initial or renewal surveys or endorsing the existing certificate at annual/intermediate surveys.
- 4.4 The person in overall advisory control of STS operations shall be qualified to perform all relevant duties¹, taking into account the qualifications contained in the best practice guidelines for STS operations.
- 4.5 Records of STS operations shall be retained on board for three (3) years and be readily available for inspection by a Party to the present Convention.
- 4.6 Every oil tanker subject to MARPOL Annex I, Chapter 8 must operate in compliance with its approved STS operations Plan.

5. Notification Requirements (Regulation 42)

- 5.1 Each oil tanker subject to this chapter that plans STS operations within the territorial sea, or the exclusive economic zone of a Party to the present Convention shall notify that Party not less than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled STS operations. Such notification shall include at least the following:
- name, flag, call sign, IMO Number and estimated time of arrival of the oil tankers involved in the STS operations;
 - date, time and geographical location at the commencement of the planned STS operations;
 - whether STS operations are to be conducted at anchor or underway;
 - oil type and quantity;
 - planned duration of the STS operations;
 - identification of STS operations service provider or person in overall advisory control and contact information; and

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g. confirmation that the oil tanker has on board an STS operations Plan meeting the requirements of Regulation 41.

5.2 Where, in an exceptional case, all of the information specified in section 5.1, above, is not available within the required timeframe of “not less than 48 hours in advance,” the oil tanker discharging the oil cargo shall notify the Party to the present Convention, that an STS operation will occur. This notification must take place not less than 48 hours in advance; and the information specified in paragraph 5.1 above provided at the earliest opportunity.

5.3 If the estimated time of arrival of an oil tanker at the location or area for the STS operations changes by more than six (6) hours, the Master, owner or agent of that oil tanker shall provide a revised estimated time of arrival.

6. Additional Requirements:

6.1 All STS transfer activities in which Palau Registered vessels are engaged shall be conducted with vessels that are not in contravention of any UNSCR and vessels included in the OFAC SDN List sanction List including all DPRK United Nation Security Council Resolution Experts Reports.

7. Contact

7.1 Any inquiries concerning the subject for this Marine Notice should be directed to the Head Office of Palau Ship Registry Administrator at technical@palaureg.com

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