



# Merchant Marine **Notice**

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

F-410  
(DCCM)  
V.03

## **AUSTRALIAN MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY (AMSA) FOCUSED INSPECTION CAMPAIGN PROPER STOWAGE AND SECURING OF CARGO CONTAINERS**

No: **MMN-15/2020**

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1. The purpose of this Merchant Marine Notice is to inform Panama Flag vessels that the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) is launching a focused inspection campaign (FIC) targeting cargo securing arrangements on container vessels visiting Australian ports.
2. This inspection campaign is being initiated in response to several serious incidents involving shipping containers lost overboard recently. Based on the incident investigations carried out by AMSA have discovered that the improper stacking and securing of cargo, and poor maintenance of securing equipment are likely to have been contributing factors to these incidents.
3. The FIC will run from August 1st to October 31st, 2020, and will involve extended port State control (PSC) inspections and stand-alone inspections on vessels that are not currently eligible for PSC inspection. If a cargo ship visits Australia over this period, the Master should expect that AMSA will visit the ship as part of the FIC. Consider where vessels are found to be non-compliant, AMSA will take the necessary actions to steps to bring the ship into compliance, before it is able to continue operating.
4. Please find the following links with the information regarding the AMSA – FIC:
  - AMSA Marine Notice 05/2020 - Focused inspection campaign - Proper stowage and securing of cargo containers:  
<https://www.amsa.gov.au/about/regulations-and-standards/052020-focused-inspection-campaign-proper-stowage-and-securing-cargo>
  - Checklist for Cargo securing arrangements focused inspection campaign:  
<https://www.amsa.gov.au/vessels-operators/port-state-control/checklist-cargo-securing-arrangements-focused-inspection>



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- Cargo securing focused inspection campaign 1 August–31 October 2020:  
<https://www.amsa.gov.au/vessels-operators/port-state-control/cargo-securing-focused-inspection-campaign-1-august-31-october>
- 5. This Administration recommends to the owners, operators, Panama flag vessels, and Recognized Organizations (RO) to verify the cargo securing arrangements on container vessels before arriving AMSA ports to avoid any delay.

**August, 2020.**

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

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