

Subject

STS Operations Plan for Panamanian-flagged Ships

ClassNK

Technical Information

No. TEC-1367

Date 18 November 2025

To whom it may concern

Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) additionally revised their Merchant Marine Circular MMC-217 for Ship-to-Ship (STS) operations for Panamanian-flagged ships. Please note the following points on the Ship-to-Ship (STS) Operations Plan for Panamanian-flagged ships. This Technical Information supersedes the previous ClassNK Technical Information No. TEC-1358.

The changes from ClassNK Technical Information No. TEC-1358 are as follows:

Addition of References in Item 2 "Additional Requirements"

Relevant Section:

STS Operations Plan shall be developed taking into account IMO's "Manual on Oil Pollution, Section I, Prevention" as amended, and the ICS and OCIMF Ship to Ship Transfer Guide for Petroleum, Chemicals and Liquefied Gases (2013).

(To be continued)

NOTES:

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1. Applicability

All Panamanian-flagged Oil Tankers of 150 gross tonnage and above, engaged in the transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers (STS operations) wherever they are located (included within jurisdictional waters of other countries) except for followings:

- Bunkering operations;
- STS operations within the territorial sea or exclusive economic zone of Panama must follow the provisions of Resolution J.D. No. 038-2022 of 25 August 2022;
- Oil transfer operations associated with fixed or floating platforms, including drilling rigs;
- FPSOs used for the offshore production and storage of oil; and FSUs used for the offshore storage of produced oil;
- STS operations necessary for securing the safety of a ship or saving lives at sea, or combating specific pollution incidents to minimize damage from pollution;
- STS operations where either of the ships involved is a warship, naval auxiliary or other ship owned or operated by a State and used, for the time being, only on government non-commercial service.
- Fishing vessels.
- Vessels engaged in Fishing related activities.

2. Additional requirements

(1) STS Operations Plan shall be developed taking into account IMO's "Manual on Oil Pollution, Section I, Prevention" as amended, and the ICS and OCIMF Ship to Ship Transfer Guide for Petroleum, Chemicals and Liquefied Gases (2013). It is necessary to amend STS Operation Plan to include the following information in the STS transfer notification to the Flag Administration.

- Name, flag, call sign, IMO Number and estimated time of arrival of the oil tankers involved in the STS transfer operation.
- Date, time and geographical position of the commencement of the planned STS transfer operation.
- Mode in which the STS transfer operation will be carried out: at anchor or underway.
- Type of oil and its quantity.
- Expected duration of the STS transfer operation.
- Identification and contact information (email, telephone number) of the Designated Person Ashore (DPA) of each oil tanker involved in the STS operation.
- Confirmation that the oil tanker has on board an STS operations Plan complying the requirements of regulation 41, Annex I, MARPOL Convention.

The updated STS Operations Plan approved by ClassNK Hull Department is to be kept on board. For your reference, Attachment 1 is a sample of the revised page. The information may be added along the existing articles in STS Operations Plan.

(2) For all STS operations carried out on or after 6 August 2025, it is required to notify their STS Operations to the PMA through the E-Segumar Platform at least 48 hours prior to the planned STS Operations. An acknowledgement of receipt which will be issued by the PMA is to be kept on board in electric format for a minimum period of 3 years.

(To be continued)

3. Plan approval of STS Operations Plan and on-board confirmation

ClassNK surveyor shall confirm that the approved updated STS Operations Plan is kept onboard no later than the first annual, intermediate or renewal survey of the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (IOPP), whichever occurs first, after 6 August 2025.

For the ships concerned, please request plan examination to ClassNK Hull Department well in advance.

For application of the examination, please download APPLICATION FOR DRAWING APPROVAL (APP-DWG) in ClassNK website below and fill out it. Please send the updated STS Operations Plans with the application to ClassNK Hull Department. ClassNK Plan Approval Center in Shanghai/Busan/Singapore will also accept your application for plan approval depending on survey place.

HOME > Information Services > Application Forms > Other Services

URL: https://www.classnk.or.jp/hp/en/download/dl_appli.aspx

For approval of STS Operations Plan, flag surcharge (USD 75 as of July 2025) will be charged in addition to plan approval fee.

4. Statutory Note of STS Operations Plan

The following Statutory Note has been set out for the ships concerned (Panamanian-flagged ships that Form B, 8A.1 of IOPP certificate is applied).

Note: Due to Flag requirement, STS Operations Plan is to be revised by the owner/management company and re-approved by ClassNK in accordance with MMC-217 no later than the first annual, intermediate or renewal survey of the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (IOPP), whichever occurs first, after 6 August 2025.

ClassNK surveyor will delete the above Note upon the confirmation that the approved updated STS Operations Plan is kept onboard.

For further details, please refer to the relevant MMC-217 posted on the following website.

URL: [Ship to Ship Transfer \(STS\) Operations Plan](#)

(To be continued)

For any questions about the above, please contact:

[For plan approval and updated plan contents]

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Attachment:

1. Sample page of STS Operations Plan

Attachment 1. to
ClassNK Technical Information No. TEC-1367

Sample page of STS Operations Plan

Notification to the Flag Administration (PANAMA)

MERCHANT MARINE CIRULAR MMC-217

1. STS transfer notification is crucial to minimize the risk of oil pollution and ensuring compliance with safe shipping standards, especially when transferring cargo between ships in a mid-ocean.
2. Starting from August 6th, 2025, all Panamanian flagged oil tankers, acting as discharging or/and receiving vessel must notify their STS transfer operations to the Flag State through the E-Segumar Platform.
3. In the event that the STS operation is carried out between two Panamanian flagged oil tankers, both vessels must notify the STS transfer operation to Panama Flag State through the E-Segumar Platform.
4. All the Panamanian flagged oil tankers must maintain valid and updated Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR) and Conformance Test Report (CTR) on board at the time of notifying the STS operations. Failure to comply with the aforementioned will result denying the authorization for STS operations until compliance is demonstrated
5. The STS transfer Notification must be provided well in advance and at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the planned STS transfer operations. An acknowledgement of receipt will be issued by the Flag State through the E-Segumar Platform which shall be kept on board in electronic format for a minimum period of three (3) years.
6. The STS transfer notification shall include the following information:
 - 6.1. Name, flag, call sign, IMO Number and estimated time of arrival of the oil tankers involved in the STS transfer operation.
 - 6.2. Date, time and geographical position of the commencement of the planned STS transfer operation.
 - 6.3. Mode in which the STS transfer operation will be carried out: at anchor or underway.
 - 6.4. Type of oil and its quantity.
 - 6.5. Expected duration of the STS transfer operation.
 - 6.6. Identification and contact information (email, telephone number) of the Designated Person Ashore (DPA) of each oil tanker involved in the STS operation.
 - 6.7. Confirmation that the oil tanker has on board an STS operations Plan complying the requirements of regulation 41, Annex I, MARPOL Convention.
7. If the estimated time of arrival of an oil tanker at the location or area for the STS transfer operation changes by more than six hours or in the event that the STS operation is cancelled due to any issue, the Master, Owner, or Designated Person Ashore (DPA) must immediately inform the Administration via the following email address: stspma@amp.gob.pa
8. Failure to provide timely notification may lead to administrative measures, in accordance with the applicable maritime regulations and oversight procedures established by the Administration.