



PANAMA
MARITIME AUTHORITY

HIGH

OPERATIONAL
STANDARDS

Back on Paris MoU whitelist



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PANAMA RETURNS TO THE PARIS MOU WHITE LIST THROUGH STRONGER MARITIME GOVERNANCE AND A COMPREHENSIVE COMPLIANCE STRATEGY

Panama has been reinstated on the White List of the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (Paris MoU), according to the organization's recently published Annual Report. The Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) welcomed the announcement, noting that the White List is widely regarded as one of the foremost international benchmarks for measuring the performance and quality of maritime administrations.

Inclusion on the Paris MoU White List signifies that a country's flag, or ship registry, complies with the highest international standards of maritime safety and regulatory oversight.

This achievement is the result of a sustained strategy to strengthen safety standards, enhance compliance with international conventions, and reinforce oversight of the Panamanian merchant fleet. It further solidifies Panama's position as a registry committed to excellence, transparency, and maritime safety.

Panama's return to the White List reflects a series of initiatives implemented by the PMA over the past several years to improve the performance of Panamanian-flagged vessels during Port State Control (PSC) inspections while raising the overall quality of the Registry.



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As part of its strategy to improve its standing within the Paris MoU, Panama has implemented several key initiatives, including:

- Strengthening its preventive inspection program by targeting higher-risk vessels before their arrival at ports operating under the Paris MoU regime.
- Introducing more rigorous mechanisms to identify and monitor vessels with a history of deficiencies, enabling corrective action before inspections and reducing the risk of detention.
- Reinforcing the Registry's Precheck process to ensure that only vessels meeting international standards are admitted to the Panama Ship Registry.
- Adopting enhanced methodologies for Flag State Inspections, strengthening both the technical and operational verification of the fleet.
- Expanding oversight of Recognized Organizations (ROs), shipowners, and operators, fostering greater shared responsibility for maintaining compliance with international standards.
- Achieving a sustained reduction in maritime incidents while improving the fleet's operational performance through a policy centered on prevention, compliance, and continuous improvement.

Panama's return to the Paris MoU White List demonstrates that a steadfast commitment to quality, safety, and international compliance delivers tangible results. This achievement belongs to every stakeholder involved and reaffirms our shared responsibility to uphold the highest standards for the world's largest ship registry.



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The Paris MoU evaluates flag State performance using a rolling three - year average based on inspections and detentions conducted at ports within its member States. Panama's reinstatement on the White List therefore reflects sustained improvements in the quality indicators of the Panamanian fleet and underscores the positive impact of the policies implemented by the PMA.

This milestone further strengthens the competitiveness of the Panama Ship Registry, enhances the confidence of the international maritime community, and provides greater operational advantages for shipowners sailing under the Panamanian flag.

The PMA reaffirms its commitment to advancing policies that promote continuous improvement, regulatory innovation, and strict compliance with the conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), ensuring the Registry continues to preserve its reputation and global leadership.