



MANDATORY REPORTING OF SHIP-TO-SHIP TRANSFER (STS) OPERATIONS

Reference: SKN Maritime Circular MC 155 26, Dated 6 September 2026

To: All Shipowners, Ship Managers, Operators, Masters and Recognized Organizations of St. Kitts & Nevis-flagged vessels

The St. Kitts and Nevis International Ship Registry (SKAN Reg) has issued Maritime Circular MC 155 26, establishing a mandatory advance reporting requirement for ship-to-ship (STS) operations involving the transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers flying the St. Kitts and Nevis flag. This Technical Note summarises the principal points of the Circular for information.

1. Background

This measure is adopted as part of the Administration's oversight of STS activities and in support of international efforts to prevent unsafe, deceptive, illicit or sanction-evasive maritime practices associated with the so-called "dark fleet" or "shadow fleet." The Circular is issued under MARPOL 73/78, Annex I, Chapter 8 (as amended by Resolution MEPC.186(59)) and IMO Resolution A.1192(33).

2. Applicability

This Circular applies to oil tankers of 150 gross tonnage and above, registered under the St. Kitts and Nevis flag, engaged in STS transfer operations involving oil cargo, regardless of location. It does not apply to transfers involving fixed or floating platforms, STS operations necessary for safety of life at sea or combating pollution, or operations involving warships or government non-commercial vessels.

3. Reporting Requirements

With effect from 1 July 2026, every STS operation within scope must be notified to the Administration at STS@skanregistry.com at least 24 hours before commencement, including the vessel and counterpart particulars, geographic location, estimated date/time, cargo type and quantity, and confirmation of an approved STS Operations Plan. Updated notification is required where an operation is cancelled, postponed or materially changed. Vessels must carry an approved STS Operations Plan and maintain records of STS operations available for inspection.

- STS operations must be notified to the Administration at least 24 hours in advance via STS@skanregistry.com, with effect from 1 July 2026.

NOTES:

- This Technical Note has been prepared to keep readers informed of current developments and is offered for general guidance purposes only.
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- Vessels must carry an approved STS Operations Plan and maintain records available for inspection.

Requirement	Effective Date / Status
STS transfer of oil cargo by an oil tanker of 150 GT and above	Must be notified to the Administration at least 24 hours before commencement, effective 1 July 2026
STS operation cancelled, postponed or materially changed	Updated notification must be submitted to the Administration without delay
Approved STS Operations Plan	Must be carried on board and records maintained in accordance with MARPOL requirements

4. Action Required

Shipowners, Ship Managers, Operators and Masters of SKN-flagged oil tankers engaged in STS operations should ensure that the Mandatory STS Transfer Advance Notification Form is completed and submitted to STS@skanregistry.com at least 24 hours before any intended operation, and that an approved STS Operations Plan is carried on board. Any questions should be directed to STS@skanregistry.com.

5. Comprehension Check

Readers are invited to consider the following questions to check their understanding of the requirements summarised above:

1. Under MC 155 26, how far in advance must an STS operation be notified to the Administration?

- A. At least 24 hours B. At least 7 days C. No advance notice is required

2. To which minimum gross tonnage of oil tanker does this Circular apply?

- A. 150 GT and above B. 500 GT and above C. 5,000 GT and above

3. Notifications of STS operations under this Circular must be submitted to which email address?

- A. enquiries@skanregistry.com B. STS@skanregistry.com C. RO@skanregistry.com

For clarification on any of the above, please reach out to:

Capital Register of Shipping (CRS CLASS)

Address: 5589 NW 72nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33166, USA

Phone: +91 871 490 8886

E-mail: info@crsclass.com