

**MCI Circular 326/2025**

**To:** Tanker Owners, Commercial Operators, ISM managers, MCI team and Agents

**Subject:** Restriction on Entry into Iranian and Venezuelan Ports

**Date:** 25th November 2025

**Summary:**

Maritime Cook Islands is issuing restrictions for Cook Islands-registered tankers due to increasing sanctions-related risks linked to operations in Iranian and Venezuelan ports.

For the purpose of this circular -

- Ports means - Iranian and Venezuelan ports and includes any offshore loading or storage facilities used for petroleum or petroleum-related operations, including but not limited to single-point moorings, monobuoys, floating storage units (FSOs), and similar offshore systems.
- Restricted Trade means – carriage or trade in Iranian or Venezuelan petroleum product including by way of STS

Effective immediately, Cook Islands-registered tankers must not engage in “Restricted Trade”

Entry by a Cook Islands-registered tanker into any Iranian or Venezuelan Port will be deemed to be for the purpose of engaging in Restricted Trade.

This applies to all tankers, regardless of size or cargo.

A Cook Islands-flagged tanker found to have entered a Port for the purpose of or engaged in Restricted Trade will be deregistered.

For further information please see

<https://maritimecookislands.com/press-release-mci-reaffirms-sanctions-compliance-and-petroleum-trade-bans/>

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