



**Re: Brazil – Amazon River navigation – North Bar / Arco Lamoso – amendment to maximum authorised draft**

May 2026

Dear All,

We write to draw your attention to Ordinance No. 223/Com4ºDN (attached together with a courtesy translation), dated 24 April 2026, issued by the Brazilian Navy’s 4th Naval District Command, concerning the authorised navigation drafts for merchant vessels transiting the Arco Lamoso, via the Grande do Curuá Channel, located at the North Bar of the Amazon River (“the **Channel**”).

The Channel is of considerable importance to local navigation as it forms part of the principal access route to and from the Amazon River system and currently constitutes the main navigational draft restriction in the region. By way of example, merchant vessels currently scheduled to call at the below ports should remain attentive to the above-mentioned regulation and any operational implications arising therefrom:

- Porto de Santana / Macapa;
- Porto de Trombetas;
- Porto de Juruti;
- Porto de Santarém;
- Porto de Itacoatiara; and
- Porto de Manaus.

According to the regulation, the following maximum drafts are currently authorised:

**For the period from 01 February to 15 August:**

- 11.85 metres for merchant vessels, except tankers and vessels carrying dangerous cargoes;
- 11.65 metres for tankers and vessels carrying dangerous cargoes.

Pilotage requirements during the above period are as follows:

- Pilotage remains optional for vessels with drafts up to 11.55 metres;

- Pilotage becomes mandatory for vessels with drafts of 11.56 metres or above.

**For the period from 16 August to 31 January:**

- 11.70 metres for merchant vessels, except tankers and vessels carrying dangerous cargoes;
- 11.50 metres for tankers and vessels carrying dangerous cargoes.

Pilotage requirements during the above period are as follows:

- Pilotage remains optional for vessels with drafts up to 11.50 metres;
- Pilotage becomes mandatory for vessels with drafts of 11.51 metres or above.

The regulation further establishes, inter alia, that:

- Vessels shall maintain minimum net under keel clearances;
- Transit must be scheduled to take place at high tide;
- Vessels must maintain adequate speed in order to minimise squat and preserve the required under keel clearance; and
- Anchoring in the vicinity of the navigable stretch of the Arco Lamoso while awaiting high tide is strictly prohibited.

The Ordinance revoked previous Ordinances No. 7/2022 and No. 203/2025 and entered into force on 24 April 2026.

This circular is issued for guidance purposes only and without any liability whatsoever on the part of BRAZMAR. It should not be relied upon as a substitute for specific legal or technical advice, nor acted upon without further verification with the relevant experts or authorities.

Should Members require any further assistance or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact our multidisciplinary team.

Please see attached a PDF version of this circular.

Kind regards,

**BRAZMAR**