



# JAPAN P&I NEWS

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To the Members

## **Brazil – Amazon River North Bar / Arco Lamoso Draft Amendment**

We have obtained information from our Brazil correspondent, Brazmar Marine Services, regarding the subject matter.

The Brazilian authority issued the Ordinance dated 24 April 2026. This regulation concerns the authorised navigation drafts for vessels transiting the Arco Lamoso via the Grande do Curuá Channel. Vessels currently scheduled to call at such as the following ports should remain attentive to this regulation and any operational implications arising therefrom:

- Porto de Santana / Macapa
- Porto de Trombetas
- Porto de Juruti
- Porto de Santarém
- Porto de Itacoatiara
- Porto de Manaus

For details, please find attached the circular from our Brazil correspondent, Brazmar Marine Services, and the Ordinance (courtesy translation provided by them).

Yours faithfully,

The Japan Ship Owners' Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association

Attachment: BRAZMAR - CIRCULAR – Amazon River navigation – North Bar \_ Arco Lamoso – amendment to maximum authorised draft  
BRAZILIAN NAVY COMMAND OF THE 4TH NAVAL DISTRICT (translation)



**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**

**BRAZILIAN NAVY**  
**COMMAND OF THE 4TH NAVAL DISTRICT**

62041.003132/2025-21

**ORDINANCE No. 223/Com4°DN, DATED 24 APRIL 2026**

Authorises the navigation of merchant vessels with the specified draughts in the Canal Grande do Curuá and Arco Lamoso.

The COMMANDER OF THE 4TH NAVAL DISTRICT, in the use of the powers conferred upon him by articles 3 and 4 of Law No. 9.537, dated 11 December 1997 (LESTA), and in accordance with Ordinance No. 155/2022 of ComOpNav, resolves:

**Art. 1** - To authorise the navigation of merchant vessels under the following conditions:

**Paragraph 1**- Maximum authorised draughts for navigation in the Arco Lamoso, via the Canal Grande do Curuá, located at the Barra Norte of the Amazon River, during the period between 1 February and 15 August of each year:

I) 11.85 metres for merchant vessels, except tankers and vessels carrying dangerous cargoes;

II) 11.65 metres for tankers and vessels carrying dangerous cargoes; and

III) conditions for pilotage services in navigation through the Arco Lamoso, via the Canal Grande do Curuá, located at the Barra Norte of the Amazon River, during the period between 1 February and 15 August of each year:

For merchant vessels, including tankers and vessels carrying dangerous cargoes, pilotage services shall be optional for draughts up to 11.55 metres. For vessels with draughts of 11.56 metres or above, pilotage services shall be mandatory.

**Paragraph 2** - Maximum authorised draughts for navigation in the Arco Lamoso, via the Canal Grande do Curuá, located at the Barra Norte of the Amazon River, during the period between 16 August and 31 January of each year:

I) 11.70 metres for merchant vessels, except tankers and vessels carrying dangerous cargoes;

II) 11.50 metres for tankers and vessels carrying dangerous cargoes; and

III) conditions for pilotage services in navigation through the Arco Lamoso, via the Canal Grande do Curuá, located at the Barra Norte of the Amazon River, during the period between 16 August and 31 January of each year:

For merchant vessels, including tankers and vessels carrying dangerous cargoes, pilotage services shall be optional for draughts up to 11.50 metres. For vessels with draughts of 11.51 metres or above, pilotage services shall be mandatory.

**Paragraph 3** - General recommendations for all vessels during any period of the year:

I) comply with navigation within the Arco Lamoso stretch defined by the following geographical coordinates:

a) Point 1: LAT 01°21.77'N – LONG 049°18.65'W;

b) Point 2: LAT 01°30.09'N – LONG 049°02.42'W;

c) Point 3: LAT 01°30.70'N – LONG 048°58.75'W;

- d) Point 4: LAT 01°29.36'N – LONG 048°58.77'W;
- e) Point 5: LAT 01°28.68'N – LONG 049°02.42'W;
- f) Point 6: LAT 01°20.32'N – LONG 049°18.65'W;
- g) Point 7: LAT 01°18.31'N – LONG 049°21.09'W; and
- h) Point 8: LAT 01°19.87'N – LONG 049°21.09'W.

II) adopt the following measures at the time of passage through the Arco Lamoso:

a) consider the tide in order to maintain a net Under Keel Clearance (UKC) of at least 0.5 metre for merchant vessels, except tankers and vessels carrying dangerous cargoes;

b) consider the tide in order to maintain a net UKC of at least 0.8 metre for tankers and vessels carrying dangerous cargoes; and

c) schedule passage through the navigable stretch described in item I of Paragraph 3 during high tide.

**Paragraph 4** - Maintain adequate speed in order to minimise squat effect. The net UKC provided for in items a and b of item II of Paragraph 3 shall not, under any circumstances, be compromised as a result of squat effect.

**Paragraph 5** - Anchoring in the vicinity of the navigable stretch of the Arco Lamoso while awaiting high tide is strictly prohibited.

**Art. 2** - The Harbour Master's Offices subordinate to this Command, with jurisdiction over stretches of Pilotage Zone ZP-01, shall include, in a harmonised manner, the provisions of this Ordinance in their Rules and Procedures for Harbour Master's Offices.

**Art. 3** - The Coordinating Pilot Station shall be requested to assign pilots with more than five years of navigation experience in the Canal Grande do Curuá and Arco Lamoso.

**Art. 4** - Ordinances No. 7/2022 and No. 203/2025 of this Command are hereby revoked.

**Art. 5** - This Ordinance enters into force on the present date.

**ADRIANO MARCELINO BATISTA**

Vice Admiral

Commander

**Distribution:**

AgItacoatiara, AgParintins, CFAOC, CFS, CHM, CHN-4, Com9°DN, ComOpNav, CPAOR, CPAP, DGN, DHN, DPC, DN-30, DN-50, DN-60 and Archive.