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## **Mexico Alert: Sudden Increase in Narcotics Incidents and Detentions**

**P&I Services Mexico** informs that as of Feb 2023, there has been a sudden increase of narcotics related incidents in Mexican East Coast Ports.

Based on publicly available information, these incidents are affecting bulk and tanker vessels alike.

The current *modus operandi* appears to be insertions in the sea chests, perhaps whilst the vessels are at anchorage, but the source of the narcotics insertion is currently unknown.

Affected vessels are calling at varied ports before Mexico (not a usual LatAm trade), as well as their future intended calls, including European countries and the USA.

Increased watches while at Mexican anchorage are highly recommended and should be documented in detail in the vessel's Logs. All other additional security measures should be carefully documented, and heightened if possible.

If narcotics are found by the crew or another, adequate legal representation is of the utmost importance as well as immediate reporting of the same.

**P&I Services Mexico SA de CV**  
[pandiser@grupodelmex.com](mailto:pandiser@grupodelmex.com)  
**DUTY LINE: +52 55 5395 9211**