



SUBJECT: International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Security Level Notification (Conflict in the Middle East – Israel and Hamas)

REFERENCE:

- a) *Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act (MSA) 2006 and related Regulations (Statutory Instruments, Directives and Circulars, as applicable).*
- b) [SOLAS Circular 2013-006](#) *Ship Security and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.*

TO: Ship-owners, operators, masters and officers of Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships and recognized security organizations.

1. INTRODUCTION

This Information Notice provides guidance to Antigua and Barbuda ships operating in or transiting through the coastal waters of Israel and the Gaza Strip.

2. SUBJECT

1. The Hamas militant group carried out a surprise attack against Israel from the Gaza Strip on the 7th of October 2023, which has created a serious risk to maritime security within ports, harbours as well as to coastal waters of Israel and the Gaza Strip.
2. Antigua and Barbuda ships visiting Israeli ports or transiting through the coastal waters of Israel and the Gaza Strip must implement the security measures of **Security Level III**, as required in the Ship Security Plan in accordance with the ISPS Code.
3. Ships with links to Israel or the United States operating in the Eastern Mediterranean must maintain vigilance and shall where necessary, based on a security risk assessment, increase security conditions aboard to protect the vessel and its crew.
4. All vessels must follow instructions of the local authorities regarding the transit of the crew in port areas. A review of the communication security plan on board is strongly recommended, assuming that an unforeseen incident may occur.

5. Ships should ensure they are transmitting information on AIS- and LRIT equipment, except in cases where the master considers that the security of the vessel could be compromised. Masters and officers shall clearly state their intentions by means of VHF and shall fully comply with instructions if challenged by a military vessel.
6. This is a dynamic situation and changes may occur at any time. Owners, operators, company security officers, and masters should monitor developments and liaise closely with local port agents and P&I correspondents for the latest information on facility conditions, dangerous sea areas, temporary port closures and navigational restrictions.
7. ADOMS Emergency 24/7 contact's (Duty Officer) telephone number is:
+ 1 268 464 7701.
8. For more maritime security information, please contact the Maritime Affairs Division of ADOMS on the main telephone number +1 268 462 1273, or by e-mail to: administration@abregistry.ag

Issued by

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