



SUBJECT: International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Security Level Notification (Threats to commercial shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden)

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

1. This Information Notice provides guidance to Antigua and Barbuda ships operating in, or transiting through, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.
2. Geopolitical tensions and consequential military activities continue to threaten the safety and security of ships operating in the region. Several commercial ships have come under attack since November 2023 when the MV "GALAXY LEADER" was boarded and captured by armed forces.
3. Since the beginning of 2024, commercial shipping has been coming under regular attacks from Houthi forces. Operation *Prosperity Guardian* has been established by a group of nations to ensure the freedom of navigation.

2. SUBJECT

1. Antigua and Barbuda does not impose any restrictions on ships transiting the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, however, ships operating in this area, now considered extremely high risk, must undertake a thorough risk assessment, and shall adopt a security level, appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions, as required in the Ship Security Plan in accordance with the ISPS Code.
2. Ships with links to Israel, the United States or United Kingdom must maintain extreme vigilance, and shall, where necessary, based on a security risk assessment, increase security conditions aboard to protect the vessel and its crew.
3. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO - www.ukmto.org) and Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA - <http://www.mschoa.org>) websites should be consulted for advice. Vessels can register their movement with

MSCHOA to access the latest threat assessments, piracy alerts and Best Management Practices (BMP) advice.

4. Maritime security briefs from UKMTO (Dubai) can be accessed by telephone or online. To contact the UKMTO Dubai office please email: dubaioic@ukmto.org Please note that any emails received between 13:00UTC on Friday afternoon and 04:00UTC on Monday morning, may not be actioned before 04:00UTC on Monday. For urgent and short notice briefing requirements that fall outside of these times Masters should contact the Duty UKMTO Officer on: +971 (0)50 559 3983.
5. The Maritime Global Security website www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org maintained as a collaborative effort by some of the shipping industry associations, offers industry issued best practices including BMP5, guidance to mariners by geographic region and provides contact and subscription information for regional maritime security reporting centres.
6. It is recommended that ships use the Maritime Security Transit Corridor (MSTC), established by coalition military authorities, to benefit from the military presence and surveillance efforts. The MSTC is shown on maritime security chart Q6099.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. ADOMS Emergency 24/7 contact's (Duty Officer) telephone number is:
+ 1 268 464 7701.
11. 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

12. Contact details for military forces operating in the areas are as follows:

UKMTO (United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations)

Email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org

Tel: +44 (0)2392 222060

+971 (0)50 552 3215

MSCHOA Email postmaster@mschoa.org

Tel: +44 (0)1923 958 545

Fax: +44 (0)1923 958 520

Website: www.mschoa.org

Issued by

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