



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
**MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS**



**DEPARTMENT
OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS**

Circular No: 4/2009

12 February 2009

TEN 5.13.09
TEN 4.28.05.6
TEN 16.3.08

TO Owners, Managers and Representatives of Ships under the Cyprus Flag

Recognised Security Organisations (RSO's):

American Bureau of Shipping
Bureau Veritas
China Classification Society
Det Norske Veritas
Germanischer Lloyd
Hellenic Register of Shipping
Korean Register of Shipping
Lloyd's Register of Shipping
Nippon Kaiji Kyokai
Polish Register of Shipping
Russian Maritime Register of Shipping
RINA

Subject: Revised Maritime Security Instructions on Piracy and Response to SSAS

I wish to inform you that the Department of Merchant Shipping (DMS) has decided to issue supplementary instructions on piracy and response to ship security alerts based on the experience gained so far and the recent increase of attacks on merchant vessels by pirates. The new instructions are set out in the Appendix of this Circular.

The DMS has a dedicated Maritime Security Section on its web page. The DMS strongly advises all parties concerned to frequently consult the above web page for updates (recommended to refresh the page) related to the implementation of the provisions of European Union Regulation (EC) 725/2004, Chapter XI-2 of SOLAS 74 as amended and the ISPS Code.

In addition, in our web Press Room/News you will be able to obtain recent news and updates related to maritime security. All related forms are available under downloads

and no further Circulars will be issued for revised ISPS related forms that have so far been announced.

This Circular must be placed on board ships flying the Cyprus Flag.

Serghios S. Serghiou
Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

CC Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
Diplomatic and Consular Missions of the Republic
Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
Cyprus Shipping Chamber
Cyprus Union of Ship Owners
Cyprus Bar Association

Encl.
GMD/

APPENDIX 1 REVISED INSTRUCTIONS ON PIRACY AND RESPONSE TO SSAS

The Department of Merchant Shipping (DMS) strongly recommends that all Cyprus flag ships maintain measures of increased security level and follow relevant procedures as per ship security plans and 24-hour piracy watch keeping at all times whilst transiting or operating in waters that piracy activity and attacks on merchant ships was up until today been reported. Such areas can be viewed on the International Maritime Bureau web page (www.icc-ccs.org). A direct link to that page is available on the DMS web page (Press Room/News). In addition, the DMS advises that a revised ship security assessment is carried out for those ships that they will be transiting through areas of increased security threats such as the Gulf of Aden, Somalia waters, West Africa etc, if considered necessary.

Moreover, all Cyprus ships shall maintain Security Level 2 when approaching/entering the sea area and ports of Indonesia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Malacca Straits, Gulf of Aden, while in any other sea area shall maintain security level 1. The aforesaid instructions do not preclude the master to take appropriate security measures in any other sea area (e.g. passing through the Straits of Bab el Mandeb and around the Horn of Africa as well as Somalia waters), when it may be deemed necessary, based on his/her own judgment. The following precautions are strongly recommended to be adopted and used by Cyprus Ships:

- Avoid sailing between Socotra and Somalia and maintain at least 100 NM radius around Socotra.
- Maintain increased security level at Master's discretion as per Ship Security Plan procedures where piracy attacks have been reported and where it is deemed necessary by the master of the ship.
- Try to maintain a distance of between 35 and 40 NM South of the Yemen Coast.
- Prepare an appropriate voyage plan to maintain a safe distance well off from the East Coast of Somalia (based on the information provided on the Live Piracy Map). Keep in mind that so far attacks on merchant ships were reported 450 NM from the East Coast of Somalia.
- 24 hours increased watches by the crew and increased monitoring of VHF communications.
- Regularly carry out exercises on piracy attacks in cases that the ship will be transiting through piracy prone areas.
- Low freeboard and slow speed makes any vessel very vulnerable. A revised SSA must be conducted and all measures must be taken to prevent boarding by pirates.

Further to the above, the Master must always, according to his / her discretion adapt and adjust to those measures that will be considered justifiable at any time where these may be deemed necessary (ISPS Code, Part A, 6.1 - *The Company shall*

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establish in the ship security plan that the master has the overriding authority and responsibility to make decisions with respect to the safety and security of the ship and to request the assistance of the Company or of any Contracting Government as may be necessary).

The DMS strongly advises ships to use maximum speed when navigating through the above areas and to make sure that the Ship Security Plan lists the established Standard Operating Procedures in the event of a security emergency, including contact lists of shore-based regional military reporting centres or afloat command of task forces etc.

In addition the DMS strongly urges ship owners and managers to:

- 1) Consult the official web page www.mschoa.eu of the Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa [MSC (HOA)] run by the EU Naval Force (EU NAVFOR).
- 2) Register all vessel movements through the Gulf of Aden on the Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa web page.
- 3) Consult the Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) web page (www.cusnc.navy.mil/marlo/Guidance/guidance.htm) for an update on the Recommended Transit Corridor.
- 4) Use the UK Maritime Trade Operations the vessel - Merchant Vessel Voluntary Reporting Scheme available on www.rncom.mod.uk/uploadedFiles/RN/Maritime_Operations/0001-UKMTO.pdf
- 5) Pass on to their Company Security Officers and Ship Security Officers as well as the Masters of their vessels the advise to masters on the MSC(HOA) web page.
- 6) Regularly consult the International Maritime Bureau web page (www.icc-ccs.org) for the reported security incidents and the live piracy map.
- 7) Report all incidents to the Reporting Centre of the International Maritime Bureau (contact details of which are available on the web page of the Department of Merchant Shipping).

In the case of a real alert, the DMS must be informed of the incident and a report (attached on Appendix 2) must be sent to the Department. The emergency 24/7 telephone for maritime security is **+ 357 99 377 988**. All attacks must also be reported to the International Maritime Bureau piracy reporting centre. In the event of a piracy attack, the MTO Dubai Hotline number is + 971 505 523 215.

The Company Security Officer or Alternate Company Security Officer must at all times notify the DMS duty officer on any real activation of the SSAS (false and real alert cases).

APPENDIX 2 - REPORT OF AN INCIDENT ON A CYPRUS SHIP

TO Director
 Department of Merchant Shipping
 P.O. Box 56193 – 3305 Limassol
 Fax Number +357 25 84 82 00
 Email: maritime.security@dms.mcw.gov.cy

SECURITY INCIDENT REPORT ON A CYPRUS SHIP

1	NAME OF SHIP	
2	IMO / CALL SIGN	
3	TYPE OF SHIP / TYPE OF CARGO	
4	GROSS TONNAGE	
5	EN ROUTE / ANCHORAGE	
6	DATE & TIME OF INCIDENT	
7	POSITION	
8	MANAGER	
9	DETAILS OF INCIDENT (brief summary of incident)	
10	NUMBER OF CREW ON BOARD & NATIONALITY OF CREW (attach crew list)	
11	MARSEC LEVEL ON SHIP	
12	CONSEQUENCES FROM THE ATTACK (for ship, crew and cargo)	
13	ACTION TAKEN (by master, crew, manager)	
14	WAS THE INCIDENT REPORTED TO ANY OTHER PARTY	
15	ACTION TAKEN BY OTHER AUTHORITY (14)	
16	ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY HELP US IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES TO COMBAT ATTACKS ON SHIPS	

DATE _____
 NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

TITLE _____