



## 香港商船資訊

## HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

**Voluntary reporting and counter piracy guidelines in the Western Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Guinea and South East Asia**

To : *Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, and Masters*

**Summary**

The purpose of this Note is to inform shipowners, ship managers, ship operators and masters of the importance for Hong Kong register ships to voluntarily report to the centres overseeing the Voluntary Reporting Areas (VRAs) when navigating waters prone to piracy and armed robbery, i.e. the Western Indian Ocean (WIO), the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) and South East Asia (SEA). This Note supersedes Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note No. 29/2018 issued on 12 December 2018.

1. Concerning with piracy and armed robbery emerging as persistent threats in the WIO, the GoG and SEA, ships transiting these areas are encouraged to report to the centres overseeing the VRAS to ensure that the military and law enforcement forces are aware of the vessels' intended sea passages and their vulnerability to an attack. Routine reporting and incident reporting are essential to enable the centres to best use any assets available to them and to assist in an emergency. Each VRA is defined in the Admiralty Security Maritime Chart (chart) through which vessels transiting can join the respective trusted reporting scheme. For more information, ship managers and masters are encouraged to study MSC.1/Circ.1601- REVISED INDUSTRY COUNTER PIRACY GUIDANCE:

<https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Security/PiracyArmedRobbery/Documents/MSC.1-CIRC.1601.pdf>

**The Western Indian Ocean (WIO)**

2. The VRA of the WIO, including the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Oman with reference to charts Q6099 and Q6111, is administered under the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) voluntary reporting scheme and the Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) voluntary registering scheme. UKMTO is the first point of contact for ships to provide liaison with military forces in the WIO, and MSCHOA is the planning and coordination centre for EU Naval forces (EUNAVFOR).

3. Ships transiting the VRA of the WIO are strongly encouraged to send regular reports to UKMTO. The reports comprise Initial Report (upon entering the VRA), Daily Reports (update on ship's position), Final Report (upon departure from the VRA or arrival in port) and Reports of suspicious/irregular activity. A specific High Risk Area (HRA), including the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC), is outlined in the area of Gulf of Aden in chart Q6009. Ships sailing within the HRA should register with MSCHOA under the "Group Transit" scheme.

4. The contact details of UKMTO and MSCHOA are:

United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO)

Email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org  
Telephone: +44 2392 222060  
Website: www.ukmto.org

Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)

Email: postmaster@mschoa.org  
Telephone: +44 1923 958545  
                  +44 1923 958700  
Fax: +44 1923 958520  
Website: www.mschoa.org

5. All masters, ship and company security officers, shipowners, managers and operators should take into account "the version 5 of Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea" (BMP5) when carrying out risk assessment and planning for voyages transiting WIO where the threat of attack by pirates and armed robbers exists. The guidance is available on IMO website: <https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Security/PiracyArmedRobbery/Documents/BMP5%20small.pdf>

6. Hong Kong registered ships when transiting the Gulf of Aden should join the Chinese Navy Vessels Escort Arrangement if protection is sought.

**The Gulf of Guinea (GoG)**

7. The VRA of GoG is administered under the Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade-Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG) voluntary reporting scheme with reference to chart Q6114. MDAT-GoG is the first point of contact for ships to provide liaison with military forces in the WIO. Ships transiting the VRA of the GoG are strongly encouraged to send regular reports to MDAT-GoG. The reports comprise Initial Report (upon entering the VRA), Daily Reports (update on ship's position), Final Report (upon departure from the VRA or arrival in port) and Reports of suspicious/irregular activity.

8. The contact detail of MDAT-GoG is:

Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade-Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG)

Email: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org  
Telephone: +33 298 228888  
Website: www.gog-mdat.org/home

9. All masters, ship and company security officers, shipowners, managers and operators should take into account “the Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security off the Coast of West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea” (“BMP West Africa”) when carrying out risk assessment and planning for voyages transiting GoG where the threat of attack by pirates and armed robbers exists. The guidance is available on ICS website: <https://www.ics-shipping.org/>

### **South East Asia (SEA)**

10. The VRA of SEA, especially in the straits of Malacca and Singapore, the southern portion of the South China Sea, the Sulu-Celebes Seas and at certain ports and anchorages in Asia, is administered under the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) voluntary reporting scheme with reference to charts Q6112 and Q6113. For the latest updates of piracy and armed robbery in the VRA, the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre (ISC) website should be referred.

11. The principle in suppressing piracy and armed robbery incidents in SEA is different and complex to those in WIO and GoG. IFC is a multi-national maritime security information centre based in Singapore and aims to achieve early warning of maritime security threats through information-sharing cooperation with its partners to facilitate timely operational responses. ReCAAP is the regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery in Asia under the principles of incidents reporting. In accordance with the MSC.1/Circ.1334, it is recommended that the ship under piracy attack should report immediately the incident to the nearest Coastal State through its MRCC. Its Coastal State will further undertake appropriate response. Upon sharing of verified information on incident between the ReCAAP Focal Points, ReCAAP ISC will issue a warning/an alert thereafter.

12. To achieve the above, Routine Ship Security Reporting, Incident Reporting and Post-Incident Reporting are required for ships transiting the VRA of SEA. The Information Fusion Centre (IFC) serves as the first point of contact for ships in the region offering a voluntary reporting scheme for Routine Ship Security Reporting. In the event of an attempted attack/an actual attack, the Master should alert the nearest coastal State through its Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), the CSO and the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) for Incident Reporting. After the attack, a detailed report shall be provided to the Flag State, the ReCAAP Focal Point, the IFC, the IMB, the Coastal States and the INTERPOL for Post-Incident Reporting. The contact details of ReCAAP Focal Points can be found in the MSC.1/Circ.1601 attached above.

13. The contact details of IFC is:

#### Information Fusion Centre (IFC)

Email: ifc\_do@defence.gov.sg  
Telephone: +65-6594-5728 (Office hour)  
+65-9626-8965 (Non office hour)  
Website: <https://www.ifc.org.sg/>

14. All masters, ship and company security officers, shipowners, managers and operators should take into account “The Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia” when carrying out risk assessment and planning for voyages transiting SEA where the threat of attack by pirates and armed robbers exists. The guidance is available on ReCAAP ISC website:

[https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/guide/Regional%20Guide%20to%20Counter%20Piracy%20and%20Armed%20Robbery%20Against%20Ships%20in%20Asia%20\(high-res\).pdf](https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/guide/Regional%20Guide%20to%20Counter%20Piracy%20and%20Armed%20Robbery%20Against%20Ships%20in%20Asia%20(high-res).pdf)

15. Other guidance focusing on abduction of crew and sea robbery in Asia are also available on the ReCAAP ISC website:

Guidance on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah

[https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/guide/Recaap\\_guidance\\_FA\(single\).pdf](https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/guide/Recaap_guidance_FA(single).pdf)

Guide for Tankers Operating in Asia Against Piracy and Armed Robbery Involving Oil Cargo Theft

<https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/guide/Guide%20for%20Tankers%20Operating%20in%20Asia%20Against%20Piracy%20and%20Armed%20Robbery%20Involving%20Oil%20Cargo%20Theft.pdf>

## **IMB and INTERPOL**

16. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) is an independent and non-governmental agency aimed at raising awareness of areas at risk of these attacks. As a trusted point of contact for shipmasters reporting incident to the IMB PRC from anywhere in the world, the IMB PRC immediately relays all incidents to the local law enforcement requesting assistance. Information is also immediately broadcast to all vessels via Inmarsat Safety Net to provide and increase awareness.

### International Maritime Bureau (IMB)

Email: [imbkl@icc-ccs.org](mailto:imbkl@icc-ccs.org) (General)

[piracy@icc-ccs.org](mailto:piracy@icc-ccs.org) (Piracy)

Telephone: +603 2031 0014

Website: <https://www.icc-ccs.org/icc/imb>

17. The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) can provide support to ship operators who have had their ships hijacked. INTERPOL’s Maritime Security Unit can assist in taking the appropriate steps to preserve the integrity of the evidence left behind at the crime scene. It is recommended that ship operators contact INTERPOL as soon as possible, ideally within 3 days of the maritime incidents.

### International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Email: [os-ccc@interpol.int](mailto:os-ccc@interpol.int)

Telephone: +33(0) 47244 7676

Website: [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int)

18. In addition to reporting all incidents of piracy and armed robbery on board to the nearest Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) or port Authorities. Hong Kong registered ships shall also report the incidents to Hong Kong Marine Department.

Hong Kong Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (24 Hours Communication Focal Point)

E-mail : [hkmrcc@mardep.gov.hk](mailto:hkmrcc@mardep.gov.hk)

Telephone : (852) 2233 7999

Fax : (852) 2541 7714

19. The Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note No. 29/2018 issued on 12 December 2018 is hereby superseded.

**Inquires**

20. Inquiries relating to this Merchant Shipping Information Note should be directed to Senior Surveyor/Security & Quality Assurance, Tel. No. (852) 2852 4503, Fax No. (852) 2545 0556 or E-mail: [sqa@mardep.gov.hk](mailto:sqa@mardep.gov.hk).

Marine Department  
Shipping Division  
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