

# 海 事 處

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## MARINE DEPARTMENT

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**3 April 2020**

To: All Masters, Ship Security Officers, Company Security Officers of Hong Kong registered ships, Hong Kong Shipowners, Hong Kong Ship Managers and Hong Kong Ship Operators

### **Ship Operators Security and Quality Advisory No.57**

#### **Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security off the Coast of West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea (“BMP West Africa”)**

In recent years, the maritime security situation off the West Coast of Africa is complex and dynamix. The **BMP West Africa** (Version 1 published march 2020) has been developed by ICS, BIMCO, IGP&I Clubs, INTERCARGO, INTERTANKO and OCIMF to help ships and seafarers avoid becoming the victims of maritime security incidents in these waters.

2. The key purposes of the guidance is to help ships plan their voyage and to detect, avoid, delay and report attacks.

3. All masters, ship and company security officers, shipowners, managers and operators should take into account the guidance when carrying out risk assessment and planning for voyages transiting areas where the threat of attack by pirates and armed robbers exists. The guidance is available on ICS website:

<https://www.ics-shipping.org/>

4. It should be emphasized that prompt reporting is extremely important for remedial actions to be taken locally and for the formulation and institution of more effective preventive measures at regional and international level in the fight against piracy. The Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade – Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GOG) is the first point of contact for ships in the region offering a voluntary registration and reporting scheme. The MDAT-GoG can be contacted at:

MDAT-GoG

Telephone: +33 (02) 98 22 88 88

Email: [watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org](mailto:watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org)

Website: [www.gog-mdat.org](http://www.gog-mdat.org)

5. Hong Kong registered ships plying/trading in the GoG region are strongly recommended to participate in this service. 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 (Email: [hkmrcc@mardep.gov.hk](mailto:hkmrcc@mardep.gov.hk)).

Yours faithfully,

*No signature on website copy*

(Eric W. C. LEE)

Senior Surveyor / Security & Quality Assurance Section  
*for* Director of Marine