

海 事 處
香港統一碼頭道38號
海港政府大樓

香港郵政總局信箱4155號



MARINE DEPARTMENT
HARBOUR BUILDING
38 PIER ROAD
HONG KONG
G.P.O. BOX 4155
HONG KONG

TELEX NO. 64553
ANSWERBACK MARHQ HX

網 站 WEB SITE : <http://www.mardep.gov.hk>

本處檔號 OUR REF.: SD/S 800/8

電話號碼 TEL. NO.: (852) 2852 4503

傳真號碼 FAX NO.: (852) 2545 0556

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

Security and Quality Advisory No. 12
Chinese Navy Escort in Gulf of Aden

This circular letter draws the attention of the concerned parties to the reminding issues provided by the Chinese Navy when joining their navy escort in the Gulf of Aden.

1. Under the current policy, Hong Kong registered ships when transiting the Gulf of Aden should join the Chinese Naval Vessels Escort Arrangement if protection is sought.
2. Hong Kong shipowner of non Hong Kong registered ships may also apply for Chinese naval escort services by submitting the applications to the Beijing MRCC through the flag state embassy in Beijing under the following e-mail address:

cnmrcc@msa.gov.cn / cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn

Tel: 86 10 652 92221

Fax: 86 10 652 92245

3. To gauge the demand of Hong Kong registered ships seeking assistance from Chinese naval warships, ships scheduled to transit the Gulf of Aden are reminded of the need to submit a "ship movement report" via e-mail to the Hong Kong Marine Emergency and Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (HKMRCC). The email address of HKMRCC is hkmrcc@mardep.gov.hk. This "ship movement report" should be submitted 7 days in advance prior to the ship's ETA at the reporting lines. Further information and the "ship movement report" can be found from the following paths:

http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/pdf/cnvea.pdf

http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/pdf/cnvea_form.doc

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4. In completing the “ship movement report”, ship’s masters and the shipowner should ensure that the particulars of their ship, especially details of communication means are correctly entered. Early information on the estimated ship movement should be provided with reasonable accuracy. “Ship movement report” with incorrect particulars will be returned for re-submission, which will delay the application. Before sending the application, the masters and the shipowner should clearly confirm that they would join the navy escort.

5. Shipowner is strongly advised that joining vessels should select their time of escort convoy according to the announced schedule and take the initiative to adjust their speed for appropriate time of arrival. Shipowner should submit the application 7 days in advance prior to the ship’s ETA at the reporting lines. Shipowner should also submit at least 2 days in advance confirmation of the time of the escort convoy intended to join in order to avoid applying of joining the escort convoy on arrival to the reporting line.

6. While transiting the Gulf of Aden, ship’s master should ensure that their ship is maintaining a 24 hours continuous communication watch. The communication equipments are in working condition for maintaining external communication, in particular with the escorting naval warships. For coordination purpose, joining vessel should establish communication with the escort naval warships 24 hour before arriving the reporting lines.

7. Vessels joining the convoy shall follow the instruction of the Chinese escorting naval warships and shall not make early departure from the convoy without consent.

8. While transiting the Gulf of Aden, the Inmarsat-C system on board should communicate via the Indian Ocean Satellite (IOR) and select the Beijing Land Earth Station as the receiving station so that the ship’s communication can be recorded by the monitoring system.

9. Other than the Marine Department “ship movement report”, the alternative reporting form (船舶报告单) from the China Shipowners’ Association website which mainly used by Chinese ships, should be completed in Chinese language with the exception of ship’s name and the e-mail address.



(Y.K. Li)

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