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貴署檔案 Your Ref. : ---

本處檔案 Our Ref. : MD-CSS-F02-040-04A-001

20 December 2023

To: All Masters, Ship Security Officers, Company Security Officers, Shipowners and Ship Managers of Hong Kong Registered Ships

Dear Sir/Madam,

Security and Quality Advisory No. 76 **Security situation in the Red Sea**

Recently, there were reports that cargo ships were attacked by missiles in the Red Sea, causing some stakeholders of Hong Kong Registered Ships (HK Ships) to concern the current situation in the Red Sea. We would like to draw your attention to the utmost importance of ensuring the safety of navigation and security of shipping in and around the Red Sea (Concerned Waters).

General Information

2. Information from IMO regarding the Red Sea area can be found at:

<https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Red-Sea.aspx>

3. Masters, Ship Security Officers, Company Security Officers, Shipowners, and Ship Managers of HK Ships currently located in or intending to enter the Concerned Waters are strongly advised to conduct a comprehensive Risk Assessment. Communication should be established with all relevant coastal States, port authorities, and port agents in order to acquire the requisite clearances and regional risk information. Failure to secure the necessary clearances and regional risk information may subject the ship to intolerable risks. All crew members should remain vigilant and the proper colours¹ shall be flown. The prescribed responses and measures in the Ship Security Plan (SSP) are in place and additional security measures should be implemented to mitigate increased risks when warranted.

4. If the increased risk cannot be mitigated to a tolerable level, the ship operators/masters shall take a detour and stay away from the Concerned Waters.

Disablement of Automatic Identification System (AIS) on board HK Ships

5. For the information about the Disablement of Automatic Identification System (AIS), please refer to the Security and Quality Advisory No.64 at:

https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/faq/pdf/sqa_64.pdf

¹ According to section 37 of Merchant Shipping (Registration) Ordinance (Cap. 415), HK Ship shall fly the national flag of the People's Republic of China directly above the regional flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on entering and leaving any port and may fly the proper colours at any time.

Revised Industry Counter Piracy Guidance

6. For the Revised Industry Counter Piracy Guidance, please refer to the Security and Quality Advisory No.65 at:

https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/faq/pdf/sqa_65.pdf

If the ship will route through the Cape of Good Hope, it is reminded to consider and act according to, among others, the Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security off the Coast of West Africa including Gulf of Guinea (BMP West Africa).

Reporting security incidents

7. Please be reminded to report all security incidents according to SSP, to the nearest rescue coordination centre (RCC) or port authorities, and to Hong Kong Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre as follows:

Hong Kong Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre

(24 Hours Communication Focal Point)

Email : hkmrcc@mardep.gov.hk

Telephone : (852) 2233 7999

Fax : (852) 2541 7714

8. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at mms@mardep.gov.hk. Security and Quality Advisory No. 75, issued on 30 November 2023, is hereby superseded.

Yours faithfully,

(No signature on website)

(R. LIU)

Senior Surveyor of Ship / Cargo Ships Safety Section
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for Director of Marine