



14 July 2025

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. 78
Security situation in the Red Sea

The recent escalating number of security incidents involving aerial drones and surface craft attacks on ships, as well as malicious electronic interference with shipboard navigation systems, indicates a significant and imminent threat of both direct and collateral damage to ships navigating the Red Sea (Concerned Water). This advisory seeks to draw your attention to the utmost importance of ensuring the safety of navigation and security for Hong Kong-registered ships (HK Ships) operating in and around the Concerned Waters.

General Information

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

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

3. As of 25 November 2024, IMO Secretariat recorded 69 incidents in an update on the situation in the Red Sea region (Annex I).

4. On 8 July 2025 IMO Secretary-General urged constructive dialogue amid renewed Red Sea attacks on merchant ships. These attacks have led to fatalities and injuries, violating international law and freedom of navigation. The risk of ships being attack in the Concerned Waters is high. Masters, Ship Security Officers, Company Security Officers, Shipowners, and Ship Managers shall take a detour and stay away from the Concerned Waters unless the elevated risk can be mitigated to a tolerable level.

5. 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 hereby strongly urged to conduct a thorough and comprehensive Risk Assessment. It is imperative to establish and maintain communication with all relevant coastal States, port authorities, and port agents to obtain the necessary clearances and up-to-date regional risk information. Failure to secure such clearances and critical information may expose the ship and crew to intolerable risks. All crew members should maintain heightened vigilance at all times. The prescribed responses and measures outlined in the Ship Security Plan shall be strictly adhered to, and additional security measures should be implemented as deemed necessary to address the increased threat level.

6. HK Ships shall fly the proper colors when entering and leaving any port, and may fly the proper colors at other times as well. The proper colors shall be the national flag of the People's Republic of China directly above the regional flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Annex II).

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

7. For the information about the Disablement of AIS, please refer to the Security and Quality Advisory No.64, which can be accessed at:

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

Revised Industry Counter Piracy Guidance

8. If the ship will route through the Cape of Good Hope, it is reminded to consider and act in accordance with, among others guidance, the Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security off the Coast of West Africa, including the Gulf of Guinea. For the Revised Industry Counter Piracy Guidance, please refer to the Security and Quality Advisory No.65, which can be accessed at:

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

Reporting security incidents

9. Please be reminded to report all security incidents in accordance with the SSP to the nearest rescue coordination centre or port authorities, as well as to the Hong Kong Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre using the following contact details:

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

10. Should you have any queries, please contact us by email at mms@mardep.gov.hk. The Security and Quality Advisory No. 77, issued on 27 June 2024, is hereby superseded.

Yours faithfully,

(No signature on website)

(H.F. YUE)

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