



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Registration with the MSCHOA and Report to UKMTO

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to inform shipowners, ship managers, ship operators and master of the importance for Hong Kong registered ships to register with the MSCHOA and report their navigational information to the UKMTO when navigating in the known areas of pirate activities not only in the Gulf of Aden but beyond in the Indian Ocean.

Recent Development of Piracy Activities

1. With the upsurge of piracy activities in 2011, more attacks on merchant ships have been reported in the recent months. Statistics reveal that the piracy activities in Somali areas have extended east into the Indian Ocean.
2. The pirates have extended the range of their operation by launching their speedboats from a long-range "mother-ship". Pushed out by navies patrolling in the Gulf of Aden, armed pirates have now reached 1,000 miles out into the Indian Ocean. If merchant ships are attacked by pirates in the vast sea area of Indian Ocean, the protection from the international fleet of warships is less likely because patrolling millions of square miles of sea by warships is nearly an impossible task.
3. The long range patrolling might better assist with by reconnaissance aircraft. However the effectiveness of assistance could only be achieved if the transiting vessels have registered with the reconnaissance coordination centre and that the ships' navigational information has also been provided.

4. The Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) and the UK Maritime Trade Organisation (UKMTO) are the two main operating centers in the region to facilitate the reconnaissance coordination of international naval and aircraft patrols. The MSCHOA provides 24 hour manned monitoring of vessels transiting through the Gulf of Aden. They also provide an interactive website which enables the Centre to provide the latest anti-piracy guidance to the ships and allows ship's operators to register their movements in the region. The UKMTO acts as the primary point of contact for merchant vessels and liaison with military forces in the region. It also administers the Voluntary Reporting Scheme.

Register Your Ship With MSCHOA and Report to UKMTO

5. Apart from the registration with the MSCHOA prior to entering the Voluntary Reporting Area (the region bound by Suez, 78°E and 10°S, which is also known as the High Risk Area) via website www.mschoa.org, seafarers of Hong Kong registered ships should also follow the measures set out in the "Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and in the Arabian Sea Area - version 3" (BMP 3) to send regular reports providing their position/course/speed and ETA at next port to the UKMTO through e-mail UKMTO@eim.ae.

6. For further updated information, please contact the MSCHOA and UKMTO at:

MSCHOA

Telephone: +44 (0) 1923 958545

Fax: +44 (0) 1923 958520

Email: postmaster@mschoa.org

UKMTO

Email: UKMTO@eim.ae

Telephone: +971 50 552 3215

Inquiries

7. 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 during the office hour.

Marine Department
Shipping Division

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