



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° ISPS 022

REPORTING GUIDANCE FOR VESSELS TRANSITING THE ARABIAN GULF/PERSIAN GULF, STRAIT OF HORMUZ AND GULF OF OMAN

TO: SHIPOWNERS, SHIPS' OPERATORS AND MANAGERS AND MASTERS

APPLICABLE TO: All vessels
EFFECTIVE AS FROM: Date of this Circular

16th August 2019

Further to the recent incidents and attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Oman, Strait of Hormuz and Persian/Arabian Gulf regions the advice by industry bodies, including BIMCO, ICS, INTERTANKO and OCIMF has been jointly published.

The purpose of the present circular is to bring to attention of all concerned the annexed "Reporting Guidance for vessels transiting the Arabian Gulf (AG), Straits of Hormuz (SoH) and Gulf of Oman (GOO)".

The annex includes details of some other sources of information that should be taken into account by Shipowners, Ship's Operators and Managers and Masters when planning for a transit in the region. In addition to the above appropriate recommendations from BMP 5 (please refer to ISPS 012 circular) should also be taken into account.

Shipowners, Ship's Operators and Managers and Masters are advised to exercise a high level of vigilance at all times in this area.

This Administration highly recommends vessels to implement security measures equivalent to **Ship Security Level 2** when transiting the Arabian Gulf/Persian Gulf, Straits of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman.

Reporting Guidance for vessels transiting the Arabian Gulf (AG), Straits of Hormuz (SoH) and Gulf of Oman (GOO)

Reference:

- A. UKMTO Advisory Notice 002/JUL/2029.
- B. U.S. Maritime Alert 2019-004A.
- C. BMP5.
- D. UKHO Security Chart Q6099.

The incidents against tankers transiting Straits of Hormuz on Friday 19 July have been widely reported (Ref A & B).

To ensure the safety of all vessels and allow navies to afford best protection to global trade it is vital:

- **Masters register with UKMTO when entering the Indian Ocean VRA (Ref C & D).**
- **Comply with Flag State Guidance.**
- **24-48 hrs in advance - Masters provide transit plans for the SoH and AG to UKMTO including:**
 - **Time of Entering/Exiting the SoH TSS.**
 - **Outline of Navigation Plan whilst operating in SoH and AG.**
 - **Any constraints or speed restrictions.**
 - **Crew Nationality.**
- **CSOs ensure all contact numbers for UKMTO and USNAVCENT NCAGS are correct.**
- **In the event of any incident or being concerned, Masters should call UKMTO immediately.**
- **Masters answer all VHF calls from coalition navies. Ch16 is becoming very busy, alternative channels will be offered.**
- **CSOs and Masters prepare, print and have available the correct response if called on VHF.**

UKMTO will share information with the navies joining [Operation Sentinel](#), and questions regarding information sharing can be directed to UKMTO. Navies are operating in the SoH and to offer best protection they need to be aware of all vessel movements and intentions.

Useful BMP Contact details:

UKMTO

Tel: +44 2392 222060

watchkeepers@ukmto.org

USNAVCENT NCAGS

24/7 Watch: +973-1785-0084

CUSNC.NCAGS_BW@me.navy.mil

Download additional sources of information:

[Safety & Security and the use of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel \(PCASP\) in Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman](#)

[BMP5: Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea.](#)

[OCIMF's Ship Security: Hull Vulnerability Study](#)

[NATO ATP2 - NCAGS Guide to Owners, Operators, Masters and Officers Edition A Version 1 Annex D to Chp 4](#)

"This guidance should be posted on the bridge for ease of access to watch officers and covered in watch hand overs."