



27 June 2024

**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. 77**  
**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. As of 8 May 2024, IMO Secretariat recorded 43 incidents in an update on the situation in the Red Sea region (Annex I).

4. Currently, the risk of being attacked is considerably 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 increased 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 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. 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.

6. HK Ships shall fly the proper colors when entering and leaving any port, and may fly the proper colors at any other time. 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 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](https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/faq/pdf/sqa_64.pdf)

## **Revised Industry Counter Piracy Guidance**

8. 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](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**

9. 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](mailto:hkmrcc@mardep.gov.hk)  
Telephone : (852) 2233 7999  
Fax : (852) 2541 7714

10. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at [mms@mardep.gov.hk](mailto:mms@mardep.gov.hk). Security and Quality Advisory No. 76, issued on 20 December 2023, is hereby superseded.

Yours faithfully,

*(No signature on website)*

(R. LIU)  
Senior Surveyor of Ship / Cargo Ships Safety Section  
Shipping Division  
*for Director of Marine*