

TO THE MEMBERS

Our Ref: UKWR C4-2009

16 March 2009

Dear Sirs

DEFENCES AGAINST PIRACY

As Members are aware, during 2008 there was a significant increase in the number of pirate attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia. Experience gained from these attacks has identified effective precautions that owners and crews can take to protect themselves and their ships.

First, before transiting the Gulf of Aden, owners can register the ship with Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSC-HOA). They can also register the ship's position, speed and course with UK Maritime Trade Office Dubai (UKMTO), ideally well before arrival at the transit corridor. Contact details for registering are set out below.

MSC-HOA

Via Website for reporting
Telephone
Fax
Email

www.mschoa.org
+44 (0) 1923 958545
+44 (0) 1923 958520
postmaster@mschoa.org

UKMTO

Email
Telephone
Fax
Telex

UKMTO@eim.ae
+971 50 552 3215
+971 4 306 5710
(51) 210473

To date, it appears that no ship that has taken both these precautions has been seized. However, at present, less than 40 per cent of ships transiting the area register with MSC-HOA. The Association encourages Members to register with **both** MSC-HOA and UKMTO.

Second, owners can refer to a Best Maritime Practices document that has been produced to assist companies and ships in avoiding piracy attacks, deterring attacks and delaying successful attacks in the Gulf of Aden and off the Coast of Somalia. This document complements guidance provided by the International Maritime Organisation. It includes sections on:

- typical attack profiles and lessons learnt;
- general pre-transit planning;
- voyage planning;
- defensive measures;
- in transit operations; and
- steps to take if the ship is attacked.

The Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the Coast of Somalia are supported by the Association and by eleven industry organisations. The organisations consulted in its preparation represent the vast majority of ship owners and operators transiting the region. The document, which can be downloaded from the Association's website at www.ukwarrisks.com, should be read by all ship owners intending to transit waters off the coast of Somalia.

Finally, we take this opportunity to draw Members' attention to the terms of Circular C3-2009 dated 26 January 2009, which sets out the current Additional Premium ("AP") Areas for Gulf of Aden Transits, Somalia Transits and Indian Ocean Transits. Further copies of this circular are available from the Association's website. Members' attention is also drawn to the terms of Rule 29 (Additional Premiums). The Owner of an Entered Ship is required to give the Association written notice before an Entered Ship proceeds to an AP area. If notice is not given as required, the Entered Ship has no cover while in the AP area.

Yours faithfully

THOMAS MILLER WAR RISKS SERVICES LIMITED
Managers

Copies of this Circular and other publications, including the Association's Rules, can be viewed and downloaded from the Association's website at www.ukwarrisks.com