



Merchant Shipping Directorate



## MEASURES TO ENHANCE MARITIME SECURITY IN THE RED SEA, GULF OF ADEN, INDIAN OCEAN AND ARABIAN SEA

**Merchant Shipping Notice 187**

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,  
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*  
***This notice revokes MS Notice 113.***

The Directorate would like to remind all concerned of [Merchant Shipping Notice 82 Rev.1](#), highlighting the need to register on the official website of the [Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa \(MSCHOA\)](#) whilst transiting the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea.

When operating in these areas, contact should be made with one of the regional reporting centres. Vessels should be registered with MSCHOA and the [UK Maritime Trade Operations \(UKMTO\)](#) (which administers the Voluntary Reporting Scheme) should be informed.

Furthermore, masters and operators are strongly advised to follow the Best Management Practices (BMP) developed by the industry and endorsed by IMO through [MSC.1/Circ.1601](#). The BMP is accessible on the [Maritime Global Security website](#).

Additionally, it may be appropriate for the company security officer (CSO) to review the Ship Security Plan (SSP) by conducting a thorough assessment of new issues which come to light and apply measures commensurate with possible risks when operating in these areas, including, a thorough appreciation of the physical and operational characteristics of the ship, the voyage pattern, ports and their facilities. The result of the review may necessitate amendments to the SSP. Its continued effectiveness shall be ascertained.

To this effect, masters and operators of Maltese ships that operate or that may operate in these sea areas are strongly advised to:

- adopt the measures of the BMP in its up-to-date version
- distribute a copy of the BMP to the crew and implement appropriate awareness prior to transit.

Masters and operators of Maltese ships that operate or that may operate in the area, are strongly advised to keep all useful contact details up to date and readily available as provided in the BMPs.

Merchant Shipping Directorate

13 February 2024

Malta Transport Centre  
Hal Lija LJA 2021, Malta

Tel: +356 2125 0360  
Email: [isps.comms@transport.gov.mt](mailto:isps.comms@transport.gov.mt)  
[www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration](http://www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration)



Merchant Shipping Directorate  
ISO 9001:2015 certified

Transport Malta is the Authority for Transport in Malta set up by Act XV of 2009