



Technical Circular

No.: 003/2015

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To Whomsoever it may concern

Subject: Maritime security in the Gulf of Aden and Somali basin

Security in the Gulf of Aden and Somalia basin has been of concern to the maritime industry since 2007, when Somali based piracy started to develop.

The piracy situation in the above region has seen significant lower numbers of reported attacks upon ships in the years 2013 and 2014 and the attacks themselves have been unsuccessful. The application of Best Management Practices for Protection against Somalia Based Piracy (BMP), the deployment of privately contracted armed security personnel aboard vessels, increased situational awareness, training and efforts by the international community might have discouraged pirates from attacking ships. However, the situation ashore in Somalia, which provided this upsurge of piracy in the first place, remains extremely unstable.

It is said that the 'capacity building' efforts, which hoped to facilitate greater domestic and maritime security in Somalia are still under-sourced and inadequate. This means that there remains a risk to shipping in the region. It is believed that a single successful hijacking of a merchant ship will encourage the Somali pirates to resume their efforts.

In view of above all ship owners, managers and crews are cautioned against complacency. They are reminded to remain vigilant and apply the Best Management Practices and guidelines issued by the flag Administrations.

Reference:

1. BIMCO Reflections – 2015, and
2. ICC IMB Piracy Reports

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