



Merchant Shipping Directorate



ESCALATING SECURITY SITUATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF, STRAITS OF HORMUZ AND GULF OF OMAN

Merchant Shipping Notice 205

*Notice to Ship Owners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

Shipping companies are to consider the escalating safety and security threats resulting from the military operations in the above-mentioned volatile sea area, which is also expanding to littoral states increasing the risks for ships and their crew already navigating in the area.

Masters and operators of Maltese ships that operate or that may operate in this area are strongly advised to evaluate the local security circumstances to determine whether their continued presence/or proceeding to ports in the region is safe.

Masters and crew shall at all times observe restrictions imposed by local authorities. It is to be noted that in view of the situation, port services may be disrupted and security levels in ports may change at short notice. As required in terms of the ISPS Code, ships shall respond to the MARSEC level set by the Contracting Government as outlined in Regulations 4.3 and 4.4 of such Code.

To this effect, masters and operators of Maltese ships, if after making the necessary assessments, in their judgment still consider it necessary to proceed to this area, are strongly advised to be mindful and follow the instructions which are / or may be issued by the littoral States in these sea areas and are expected to proceed with utmost caution and in a high state of vigilance. It is recommended that company security officers, masters, and ship security officers review security threat assessments for merchant ships operating in this region; and implement higher ship security level procedures as outlined in the approved ship security plans whilst trading in these areas.

Considering the potential spread of the conflict to the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden the Directorate also reminds all concerned of Merchant Shipping Notices [186](#) and Merchant Shipping Notice [187](#) which are still relevant and in force.

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Merchant Shipping Directorate
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