



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE  
INTERNATIONAL SHIP REGISTRY  
FLAG ADMINISTRATION**

**Official Maritime Notice.**  
**Ref.: STP/MN/2026/001**  
**Date: 2026/03/01**

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**To: Designated Agents, Shipowners, Operators, Company Security Officers, Masters, and Recognized Organizations,**

**Subject: Security Advisory – Escalation of Maritime Security Risk in the Arabian Gulf and Adjacent Areas.**

The São Tomé and Príncipe Flag Administration wishes to draw your urgent attention to the deteriorating maritime security situation in the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, and adjacent waters, as reflected in recent advisories issued by several maritime administrations and security authorities.

Current information indicates an increased risk to commercial shipping arising from ongoing military operations, potential hostile actions against merchant vessels, disruption of port services, electronic interference affecting navigation and communications systems, and the possibility of sudden changes in security conditions within the region.

In light of the above, all vessels flying the flag of São Tomé and Príncipe and intending to operate, transit, or call at ports within the affected area are hereby advised to observe the following:

**1. Voyage Risk Assessment**

Shipowners and operators shall conduct detailed, vessel-specific, voyage-specific, and activity-specific security risk assessments prior to entering or operating in the affected area and implement appropriate mitigation measures consistent with the prevailing threat environment.

**2. Security Level and ISPS Compliance**

Vessels transiting the affected area are advised to operate at Security Level 3 and to implement all corresponding protective measures as defined in their approved Ship Security Plan, taking into account the heightened risk conditions.

Vessels calling at or remaining in ports within the affected area shall comply with the security level established by the Designated Authority or Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO) at the respective port, in accordance with the ISPS Code.

**3. Heightened Vigilance**

Masters shall navigate with extreme caution, maintain continuous situational awareness, monitor VHF Channel 16, and comply with any instructions issued by coastal States, naval forces, or military authorities operating in the region.

**4. Reporting and Coordination**

Vessels are strongly encouraged to:

Register and maintain communication with UKMTO, including regular position reporting while operating in the area;

Register movements with the Maritime Security Centre – Indian Ocean (MSCIO) prior to entering the Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA);



Participate in voluntary reporting to the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) [Vessel Report - IFC-IOR](#);

Follow the latest Best Management Practices for Maritime Security (BMP) and any guidance issued by coalition forces operating in the region.

### **5. Navigation Systems and Electronic Interference**

Operators should be aware that vessels operating in the affected area have reported significant disruption of GPS-dependent systems, including AIS and LRIT, due to electronic interference and jamming. Appropriate contingency measures and alternative navigational practices should be adopted.

In accordance with **IMO Resolution A.1106(29)**, where the Master considers that the continuous transmission of AIS could compromise the safety or security of the vessel, or where a security threat is imminent, AIS transmission may be restricted or temporarily suspended based on a documented risk assessment. It should be noted that security incidents have occurred irrespective of AIS operational status, and any such decision should balance reduced visibility against the potential limitation in receiving external assistance.

### **6. Operational Considerations**

Shipowners and operators are advised to carefully evaluate the operational necessity of transiting or calling at ports within the affected area and to consider alternative routing where commercially and operationally feasible.

The Administration reminds all concerned that the safety and security of the vessel, crew, and cargo remain the primary responsibility of the Company and the Master. Any security incident, significant system interference, threat, or abnormal occurrence shall be reported without delay to the Company and promptly notified to this Administration.

The São Tomé and Príncipe Flag Administration will continue to monitor the situation closely and may issue further guidance as necessary.

We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining the highest level of vigilance, preparedness, and operational discipline during this period of elevated regional risk.

Should any further clarification be required, this Administration remains at your full disposal.  
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**São Tomé and Príncipe Flag Administration**