

VANUATU INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING REGISTRY (VISR)
39 BROADWAY, SUITE 2020
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006
TEL: 212-425-9600
INFO@REGISTER-VU.COM



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Setting Maritime Security Level 2 (MARSEC Level 2) for Vessels Flying the Flag of Vanuatu in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Northern Arabian Sea

Applicable to: This FLEET SAFETY LETTER should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators, Masters of Vanuatu-registered ships and Recognized Organizations

Open-source intelligence and regional diplomatic developments indicate a significant escalation of tensions in the Middle East region, particularly involving the State of Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The security situation remains fluid and volatile, and the possibility of rapid escalation affecting maritime operations in the region cannot be excluded. In light of the above, and in accordance with the provisions of SOLAS Convention, Chapter XI-2, Regulation 3.1 and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, Part A, Section 4.1, the Administration issues the following instructions.

Pursuant to SOLAS Regulation XI-2/3.1 and ISPS Code Section A/4.1, Maritime Security Level 2 (MARSEC Level 2) is hereby set for all vessels flying the flag of Vanuatu to which SOLAS Chapter XI-2 applies, while navigating, operating, anchoring, or being moored within the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Northern Arabian Sea. This measure is effective immediately and shall remain in force until further notice.

In addition to the measures required under the approved Ship Security Plan (SSP) for MARSEC Level 2, Companies and vessels are instructed to ensure that the Master and Company Security Officer (CSO) maintain close communication with relevant regional maritime security centers, including UKMTO (United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations) and MSCHOA (Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa), and continuously monitor official advisories and threat assessments.

Companies and vessels are also instructed to report without delay any unusual activity, suspicious approach, drone activity, security incident, or attempted interference through established Voluntary Reporting Schemes, ensuring that communication equipment remains fully operational and continuously manned, and that all such reports are also notified to the CSO and, where appropriate, to the Administration. Furthermore, Companies and vessels are instructed to review and implement the latest Best Management Practices (BMP – Maritime Security), reassess voyage planning and routing risk assessments, and review contingency plans covering crew safety, emergency preparedness, and crisis response in the event of further regional escalation.

Company Security Officers (CSOs) and Deputy Company Security Officers are requested to acknowledge receipt of this Circular and confirm implementation of the above measures.

Berke Ayazli
Executive Vice President
Vanuatu International Shipping Registry
The Republic of Vanuatu