



***Measures to enhance maritime security in response to  
increased attacks off the coast of Somalia***

***MSD Notice No 71***

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers,  
Masters, Officers and Security Officers*

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This year has been characterised by a marked increase in serious attacks by pirates off the coast of Somalia.

According to ICC Commercial Crime Services of the International Chamber of Commerce, there have been 23 attacks off the Somali coast since last March with two attacks in the space of two days being reported last week one of them involving a Maltese ship.

In the light of the evident increase in security threats and the likelihood of their occurrence in these waters, in order to establish and prioritise security measures, company security officers are strongly recommended to carry out ship security assessments (ISPS Part A 8.1). This may include amendments of approved ship security plans on ships trading on the east coast of Africa in the vicinity of the Somali coast.

Furthermore, ship masters are advised to proceed through these areas with utmost caution and in a high state of vigilance. Ship security officers and/or ship masters are strongly recommended to implement ship security level 2 procedures as outlined in the approved ship security plans whilst trading in these areas.

Merchant Shipping Directorate  
Valletta

25 October 2005