

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
102nd session
Agenda item 10

MSC 102/10/6
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PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Comments on MSC 102/10/3 on Best Management Practices West Africa

Submitted by ICS, BIMCO, OCIMF, INTERTANKO and INTERCARGO

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document comments on MSC 102/10/3 and confirms to the Committee the development of new best practices guidance for the West Africa region titled *Best Management Practices West Africa*, Best Management Practices to enhance maritime security for Vessels & Mariners Operating Off The Coast of West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea (BMP WA) and invites the Committee to consider amending MSC.1/Circ.1601 to replace annex 3 with the BMP WA guidance

Strategic direction, if applicable: 5

Output: 5.4

Action to be taken: Paragraph 9

Related documents: MSC.324(89); MSC 100/14/1; MSC 102/10/3 and MSC.1/Circ.1601

Introduction

1 This document is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.12.5 of the document on *Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies* (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.1) and provides comments on document MSC 102/10/3.

2 In document MSC 102/10/3, the co-sponsors identified that the guidance reported in MSC 100/14/1 and replicated in annex 3 of MSC.1/Circ.1601 was to be updated. This document comments on MSC 102/10/3 and confirms the publication of the *Best Management Practices West Africa (BMP WA)*.

Best Management Practices

3 The BMP WA builds upon existing guidance and draws upon the experience gained by ships operating in West Africa. The publication represents the best practices for shipowners, operators and seafarers. The new and revised guidance takes into account developments in piracy and armed robbery at sea, the development of further regional guidance, changes in pirate modus operandi and the establishment of new reporting mechanisms in the region. The guidance is intended to assist companies and seafarers to mitigate maritime security threats wherever they arise and improve the safety and security of seafarers, ships and trade.

4 The BMP WA may be downloaded from this link: <https://www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org/geography/gulf-of-guinea/>.

5 At its eighty-ninth session (11 to 20 May 2011) the Committee, having inter alia recognized the importance of the counter piracy Best Management Practices (BMP) and the need to comply with the provisions therein, adopted resolution MSC.324(89) on *Implementation of Best Management Practice Guidance*, and expressed its general understanding of the need to keep the BMP alive, relevant, dynamic and updated.

6 The Committee therefore authorized the Chairperson and the IMO Secretariat to distribute the revised Best Management Practices guidance as a new MSC circular, and to revoke the existing circular without waiting for the Committee's prior approval. The Committee consequently endorsed the new circular retrospectively at its ninetieth session.

7 Following the work of the industry, MSC.1/Circ.1601 is now out of date. Taking into account the decisions taken by the Committee outlined in paragraphs 5 and 6, MSC.1/Circ.1601 needs updating. Therefore, the co-sponsors would invite the Committee to consider updating MSC.1/Circ.1601 with this new information.

Conclusion

8 The co-sponsors have submitted this document with the intent to provide greater clarity of the measures industry is taking to deal with the problems of insecurity in West Africa and to invite consideration by the Committee to amend MSC.1/Circ.1601 and replace annex 3 with the BMP WA guidance.

Action requested of the Committee

9 The Committee is invited to note the publication of the BMP WA and the proposal contained in Paragraph 8 and take action as appropriate.
