

Maritime Safety Committee
100th session
Agenda item 14

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PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Industry Counter-Piracy Guidelines

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SUMMARY

*Executive
summary:*

This document informs the Committee of the development of new Global Counter Piracy Guidance for Companies, Masters and Seafarers, the revised Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea (BMP 5), updated guidance for protection against piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea region, and the development of a dedicated maritime security website by the shipping industry; and proposes that the Committee circulate the documents for Member Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with consultative status, and endorse the annexed draft circular.

*Strategic direction, 5
if applicable:*

Output: 5.3 and 5.4

Action to be taken: Paragraph 6

Related documents: MSC.1/Circ.1337; MSC.1/Circ.1339; MSC 89/25; MSC 90/28

1. This document is submitted in accordance with MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.1 on *Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies*, taking into

account resolution A.1111(30) on the *Application of the Strategic Plan of the Organization*.

Background

2. 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.
3. The Committee therefore authorized the Chairman 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.

Discussion

4. The shipping industry has comprehensively reviewed and updated its guidance on piracy and armed robbery at sea, resulting in the development of Global Counter Piracy Guidance for Companies, Masters and Seafarers, the revised Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea (BMP 5), the guidelines for protection against piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea region (Version 3), and the launch of a dedicated maritime security website: www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org.
5. The new and revised guidance takes into account developments in piracy, armed robbery at sea and other maritime security threats since the publication of BMP4, including the development of further regional guidance, changes in pirate modus operandi, and the establishment of new regional reporting mechanisms. 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. Copies of the guidance documents are provided at the annexes.

Action requested of the Committee

6. Noting the decision of the Committee at its 89th session to support and disseminate industry best practice guidance, the Committee is invited to amend and update MSC.1/Circ.1339 in order to raise awareness of the new and revised industry guidance, amongst the relevant stakeholders including, but not limited to, flag States, port States, Coastal States, shipowners, masters and seafarers. The Committee is invited to endorse the draft circular set out in annex 1.

ANNEX 1

DRAFT MSC CIRCULAR

Revised Industry Counter-Piracy Guidance

1 The Maritime Safety Committee (the Committee), at its eighty-ninth session (11 to 20 May 2011) having, inter alia, recognized the importance of the 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.

2 The Committee noted that the industry group was working on a revision to the Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and in the Arabian Sea Area. The Committee therefore authorized the Chairman and the IMO Secretariat to distribute the revised Best Management Practices guidance as a new MSC circular, and to revoke the existing circular (currently MSC.1/Circ.1339) without waiting for the Committee's prior approval. The Committee endorsed the new circular retrospectively at its ninetieth session (16 to 25 May 2012).

3 At its 100th session, the Committee noted that the shipping industry had comprehensively reviewed and updated its guidance on piracy and armed robbery, resulting in the development of Global Counter Piracy Guidance for Companies, Masters and Seafarers; the revised Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea (BMP 5), the guidelines for protection against piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea region (Version 3); and the launch of a dedicated security website: www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org.

4 The Committee further noted that the new and revised guidance takes into account developments in piracy and maritime security since the publication of BMP4, including the development of further regional guidance, changes in pirate modus operandi, and the establishment of new regional reporting mechanisms. The guidance is publically available and is intended to assist companies and seafarers to further mitigate against maritime security threats, and help increase the security of world trade. The Committee agreed to disseminate the guidance as appropriate.

5 Member Governments are invited to take note of the Global Counter Piracy Guidance for Companies, Masters and Seafarers, as set out in annex 1, the revised Best Management Practices (BMP 5), as set out in annex 2 and, protection against piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea region as set out in annex 3 and advise owners, operators and managers of ships entitled to fly their flag, as well as the shipboard personnel employed or engaged on such ships, to act accordingly, taking into account the guidance provided in resolution MSC.324(89) and the Organization's current recommendations to Governments and guidance to shipowners and ship

operators, shipmasters and crews on preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships*.

6 Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with consultative status are also invited to take note of the guidance detailed in paragraph 5 above, and to advise their membership to act accordingly.

7 Member Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with consultative status are invited to consider bringing the results of the experience gained from using the Global Counter Piracy Guidance for Companies and Seafarers, BMP 5 and, the guidelines for protection against piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea region to the attention of the Committee.

8 MSC.1/Circ.1339 is hereby revoked.

* MSC.1/Circ.1333 on Recommendations to Governments for preventing and suppressing piracy and armed robbery against ships, and MSC.1/Circ.1334 on Guidance to shipowners and ship operators, shipmasters and crews on preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships, or revisions thereto.