



JUNE 3, 2011

CIRCULAR NO. 18/11

TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Dear Member:

IMO ISSUES INTERIM GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF PRIVATELY CONTRACTED ARMED SECURITY PERSONNEL (PCASP) ON BOARD SHIPS TO COMBAT PIRACY

Members should be aware that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has recently issued two circulars containing interim guidelines regarding the use of armed guards on board ships in high risk piracy areas. These are:

1. [MSC.1/circ.1405](#) INTERIM GUIDANCE TO SHIPOWNERS, SHIP OPERATORS, AND SHIPMASTERS ON THE USE OF THE PRIVATELY CONTRACTED ARMED SECURITY PERSONNEL ON BOARD SHIPS IN THE HIGH RISK AREA.
2. [MSC.1/circ.1406](#) INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FLAG STATES REGARDING THE USE OF PRIVATELY CONTRACTED ARMED SECURITY PERSONNEL ON BOARD SHIPS IN THE HIGH RISK AREA.

Members are referred to the guidelines themselves for their terms, which are detailed.

It is important to note that, as the guidelines themselves say, the IMO circulars should not be taken as the IMO's endorsement of the use of armed guards, but rather as guidelines for shipowners who may find it necessary to consider their use. Moreover, the guidelines and suggestions therein should be read as being in addition to, and not in place of, Best Management Practices (the third edition of which, designated BMP3, was attached to [Circular No. 19/10](#) of July 6, 2010) and any applicable flag, port or coastal state regulations which may now exist or may come into effect as matters progress, e.g. the circumstances referred to in the Club's [Member Alert of March 31, 2011](#) concerning South African regulations regarding fire arms on board vessels in South African ports.

In this regard, an inter-sessional meeting of the IMO Working Group on Maritime Security will meet in the week commencing September 12, 2011, to develop recommendations to governments (flag, port and coastal states) on the use of PCASP and review the interim guidance to shipowners for any consequential amendments.

Members may also find information on the following link: <http://www.igpandi.org/Piracy/News/2011/3>.

Should Members require more detailed advice concerning existing flag, coastal or port state regulations, your Managers will be pleased to assist.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph E.M. Hughes, Chairman & CEO
Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Managers for

THE AMERICAN CLUB