

MEMBER ALERT



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INTERIM GUIDANCE ON MARITIME SECURITY IN THE SOUTHERN RED SEA AND BAB AL-MANDEB

The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), BIMCO and INTERTANKO have recently issued a document entitled [*Interim Guidance Note on Maritime Security in the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb*](#). This interim guidance is a supplement to the current [*Best Management Practices for Protection Against Somalia Based Piracy*](#), otherwise known as BMP4.

The Interim Guidance Note takes into account maritime threats arising from the current conflict in Yemen beyond those risks posed by piracy in the region including missiles, sea mines and waterborne improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Commercial ships are not currently considered targets in the Yemeni conflict. However, they are at risk of being mistaken for military craft, or otherwise in danger through being in close proximity to vessels that may be targeted in the region.

Companies should take account of such risks within the ambit of BMP4 and ensure that Company Security Officers and ships' Masters conduct effective risk assessments prior to transiting the region. The Guidance Note emphasizes obtaining up to date information on activities in the region prior to preparing pre-voyage risk assessments, reducing the risks of mistaken identity by making use of the Maritime Security Corridor, and reporting to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operation (UKMTO) and the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA).

Members are reminded that the Club maintains a dedicated website space which contains a range of information, including answers to frequently asked questions on the subject, and guidance for Members on the hiring of armed guards. It also provides links to other industry information on piracy and armed robbery. It is available at:

<http://www.american-club.com/page/piracy>.

Members are encouraged to refer to this section of the Club's website or contact the Managers directly should they have questions about this matter, or generally.