

Circular letter No.3394
15 August 2013

To: All IMO Members
United Nations and Specialized Agencies
Intergovernmental Organizations
Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status

Subject: **Interim Guidelines for Owners, Operators and Masters for protection
against piracy in the Gulf of Guinea region**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-second session (12 to 21 June 2013), recognized the gravity of the issue of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Gulf of Guinea and the extreme violence exhibited, and expressed its deep concern for, and condemnation of, such activities.

2 The Committee called upon flag States whose ships are operating in the area to reinforce the need for the full implementation of the 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* and other guidelines developed by the Organization and the industry.

3 Such other guidance includes the newly developed Interim Guidelines for Owners, Operators and Masters for protection against piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea region (the Interim Guidelines), developed by the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), BIMCO, the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO) and the International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO) and are supported by NATO Shipping Centre. The Committee agreed to promulgate details of the Interim Guidelines and instructed the Secretariat to do so.

4 The Committee recognized that the Interim Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Best Management Practices (BMP), adopted and circulated by the Committee as MSC.1/Circ.1339, and the other IMO guidance mentioned above.

5 Member Governments are invited to consider the Interim Guidelines 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.

* 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.

6 Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with consultative status are also invited to consider the Interim Guidelines and to advise their membership to act accordingly.

7 Member Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with consultative status are further invited to consider bringing the results of the experience gained from using the Interim Guidelines to the attention of the Committee.

8 The Interim Guidelines can be found online following any of the links below:

<http://www.ics-shipping.org/Interim%20Guidelines%20for%20Owners,%20Operators%20and%20Masters%20for%20Protection%20against%20Piracy%20in%20the%20Gulf%20of%20Guinea%20Region.pdf>

https://www.bimco.org/en/News/2012/12/~/_media/Security/Piracy/Gulf_of_Guinea/2012-12-20_RT_agreed_GoG_anti-piracy_guidance.ashx

http://www.intertanko.com/Global/admin_WeeklyNews/GOG%202012-12-20%20RT%20agreed%20GoG%20anti-piracy%20guidance.pdf

<http://www.shipping.nato.int/Pages/Guidelines-for-Gulf-of-Guinea.aspx>