

Warlike Operations Area Committee

Strait of Hormuz Agreement (Temporary)

02 October 2019

THE WARLIKE OPERATIONS AREA COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the extraordinary security situation in the Strait of Hormuz, advice has been issued by the Department for Transport on 24 July to British shipping (UK / Red Ensign Group flagged) to avoid the Strait of Hormuz unless accompanied by UK naval support. The Ship Security Level that had previously been set at SL3 within Iranian territorial waters and the Strait of Hormuz remains in force.

ISSUES the following recommendation to operators of ships entered in the Chamber of Shipping that transit the sea area bounded as follows as per the UK Government definition of the territorial limits of the Strait of Hormuz:

On the West: A line joining Ra's-e Dastakan (26°33'N – 55°17'E) in Iran, southward to Jaztal Hamra lighthouse (25°44'N – 55°48'E), in the United Arab Emirates (the common limit with the Persian Gulf).

On the East: A line joining Ra's Līmah (25°57'N – 56°28'E), in Oman, eastward to Ra's al Kūh (25°48'N – 57°18'E), in Iran (the common limit with the Arabian Sea).

The recommendation is that:

1. In recognition of the additional risks, operators of all ships transiting and working in the specified area should adhere to the advice contained in their Ships Security Plan and, where relevant guidance on mitigation measures and reporting relevant to the Strait of Hormuz released by OCIMF, INTERTANKO, BIMCO and ICS, and the latest edition of Best Management Practices and take protective measures as appropriate against the possibility of an incident occurring. See *BMP5: Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea*.
2. Operators of any ships that are to transit the specified area should follow the advice of their flag state and in the case of British shipping (UK / Red Ensign Group flagged) should notify DfT (maritimesecurity@dft.gov.uk) and UKMTO (watchkeepers@ukmto.org) at least 72 hours in advance of intended passage through the Strait of Hormuz to facilitate military accompanied transit planning (both eastbound and westbound), or the maritime defence force or any other country that has allied itself with the UK for the purpose of protecting merchant shipping transiting the specified area, in accordance with instructions issued by the (MoD/DfT).
3. Operators of any ship that is to transit the area and does not take account of the relevant guidance released by the various industry bodies stated in paragraph 1 and does not follow the recommendations in paragraph 2 above (so, for UK and Red Ensign Group flagged ships deciding not to be part of a military accompanied transit) should allow any of their seafarers who choose not to proceed to the specified area not to join the ship, or to leave the ship at a preceding port as appropriate and make special payments to all crew members remaining on board of 100% of basic pay, in respect of each day during which the ship is in the specified area, in recognition of higher risks associated with transiting and operating in this area. Such payments are to be in addition to all other remuneration earned.
4. Operators of ships operating in this area should ensure they obtain and adopt all the Security Levels and Advisories as per their relevant flag state. UK ships are advised to note

UK Government advice. UKMTO advisories, warnings, and contact information are available at <http://www.ukmto.org/>

5. The existing NMB compensation levels should be doubled in respect of the death or detention of any seafarer working on a ship in the specified area which as per paragraph 3 does not follow the advice of their flag state.
6. Companies should agree to underwrite any personal life assurance policies of seafarers serving on board ships in the specified area that might become invalidated as a result of their service in the specified area.
7. The recommendation applies from 02 October 2019. It will be valid for a period of one month and will be then reviewed by the Warlike Operations Area Committee on 02 November 2019 or earlier if advice from the relevant Flag State changes substantially.