ST KITTS & NEVIS INTERNATIONAL SHIP REGISTRY

MARITIME CIRCULAR – MC 125 23

SECURITY ALERT RAISED TO LEVEL 3 FOR SHIPS OPERATING WITHIN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AREA ADJACENT TO ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this Maritime Circular is to advise Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators and Recognised Security Organisation of St Kitts and Nevis flag vessels that, with immediate effect, Security Level III (3) should be applied to all ships that are currently transiting within the Eastern Mediterranean Sea area adjacent to Israel and Palestine and, in particular, near the Gaza Strip.

2. Application

2.1. Further to the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Islamist group Hamas, the Department of Maritime Affairs has raised the Security Level to III (3) in accordance with the provisions of SOLAS Chapter XI-2, Regulation 3 & 7. All other trading areas outside of the above mentioned zone will remain at Security Level I (1).

3. Recommendations

3.1. For those St Kitts and Nevis flag vessels in Israeli ports or transiting the above mentioned zone must keep the utmost vigilance and increase security conditions aboard in order to protect the vessel and its crew.

3.2. Shipowners, Ship Managers and Ship Operators are recommended to follow the below listed:

- Undertake a new ship- and voyage-specific threat risk assessment before entering any region where there has been an incident, or the threat has changed.
- After the risk assessment, review the Ship's Security Plan.
- Review section 2 of BMP5, which outlines non-piracy threats and the Global Counter-Piracy Guidance.
- Maintain a full and vigilant bridge watches; Note: at night, slow small boats with no wake are difficult to spot on radar.
- Maintain a strict communication watch and establish communication with all vessels coming close. Do not allow small boats to approach or to come alongside. Use a searchlight for identification at night.
- Ensure strict boarding controls in place.
- Only lower accommodation gangways or ladders when necessary.
- Rig outboard lighting where possible provided when they do not interfere with keeping a safe lookout, particularly over the stern and rig/use searchlights if available.
- Monitor relevant VHF and other communication channels.
- Check all fire-fighting equipment available for immediate use. Make sure the emergency fire pump is available if any maintenance is being undertaken.

- Keep the Automatic Information System (AIS) on. There is no need to complete the field stating the last or next port of call.

3.3. This Administration recommends that all vessels follow the instructions of the local authorities regarding the transit of the crew in port areas. Review your communication security plan on board, in case of an unforeseen incident.

If you have any questions, please contact this office at mail@skanregistry.com

Yours truly,

Liam Ryan
International Registrar of Shipping and Seamen