



INFORMATION LETTER 007-2010

to

**all Owners and Managing Owners operating ships under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda;
all ships registered under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda;
all associated Recognised Security Organisations.**

Ship Security Reporting System (SSRS)

1. The Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping recommends that all parties concerned consider the use of the Ship Security Reporting System (SSRS) for their vessels operating in the Gulf of Aden, the Somali Basin and off the Horn of Africa.
2. The SSRS enhances the effectiveness of existing Ship Security Alert Systems (SSAS) by providing a link from a ship sending an alert directly to the Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) and UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) and onward to EU NAVFOR Somalia – Operation Atalanta and associated participating naval forces responsible for maritime security in the Gulf of Aden and off the Somali coast.
3. The SSRS continuously monitors SSAS alerts transmitted by subscribing vessels and compare their positions, when sending an SSAS alert, to the published MSCHOA/UKMTO area of operation. If it is established that the vessel is within this area, then the alert is routed to MSCHOA and UKMTO. Once it is confirmed that the alert is genuine, the updated information, including the vessels name, report date/time stamp, associated latitude/longitude, is disseminated through the forces Mercury system, which is viewed by all participating task forces.
4. The use of the SSRS is expected to minimize communication delays between the stakeholders, and depending on their proximity, may provide the opportunity for quicker deployment of naval assets to potentially thwart a piracy boarding attempt, or if the boarding has already occurred, provide vital information, such as position, speed and freeboard, to the nearest available naval asset.
5. **Subscribing to the SSRS, which is at the discretion of the addressees, carries a fee of USD 500 per ship per year. Further details regarding the SSRS service and the associated costs can be accessed from the commercial website: <http://www.SSRS.org>.**
6. Kindly note that although the SSRS system reduces the notification time to the relevant Task Force, it does not replace the need for direct reporting of incidents to MSCHOA and UKMTO and implementation of anti-piracy best management practices, nor does it guarantee the availability of a naval asset that can respond at the critical early stages of a piracy attack. Whenever possible, the SSAS should be activated in concert with a telephone call to MSCHOA/UKMTO.

7. When subscribing to SSRS the CSO shall address the new procedure and additional designated authority within the approved SSP in accordance with section A/9.4.18 of the ISPS code.

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