

HWRB C2/2015

7 July 2015

TO THE MEMBERS

Dear Sirs

PIRACY PRECAUTIONS

The Association is concerned that the significant decline in piracy attacks in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean, and the absence of any successful hijacking for more than three years, may give a false impression that the risk of piracy has disappeared.

Firstly, the decline in reported piracy may well translate into reduced political support for naval intervention such that international and national naval missions, such as the European Union's Operation Atalanta, will withdraw. Indeed that particular operation has only been extended to the end of 2016.

Additionally it is possible that continuing operational and cost pressures may cause shipowners to become less vigilant. The most significant continuing cost of security measures is armed guards.

Although there has not been a successful hijack of a merchant vessel since May 2012, this may only be an indication that the threat from Somali piracy has only been suppressed, rather than having been defeated.

Shipowners should remain vigilant and proactively deploy the most appropriate defences contained within BMP 4. They should think very carefully about any reduction in the use of armed guards, particularly when a ship's freeboard and/or transit speed renders it more vulnerable to attack.

The Association is very aware of the cost pressures facing Members at present and has further enhanced the Additional Premium rates charged for transits of the Gulf of Aden / Indian Ocean AP area commencing on or after 1 July particularly when on-board security is employed. Please contact the Managers for further details. The Managers continue to be on hand to assist with advice and guidance for Members and assist them in fulfilling their obligation to act prudently in preserving the safety of ships and their crews.

Yours faithfully

THOMAS MILLER (BERMUDA) LTD

Managers

Copies of this Circular and other publications, including the Association's Rules, can be viewed and downloaded from the Association's website at www.hellenicwarrisks.com