



ST KITTS & NEVIS INTERNATIONAL SHIP REGISTRY

MARITIME CIRCULAR – MC 151 26

ESCALATION OF SECURITY RISKS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND RECOMMENDED PRECAUTIONS FOR VESSELS

1. **Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this Circular is to inform all Ship Masters, Shipowners, Operators, Managers, and Recognized Organizations of the recent escalation of security risks in the Middle East and the Strait of Hormuz as reported through international maritime safety channels and widely accessible global news sources.
- 1.2. This Maritime Circular serves to reinforce vigilance and outline recommended precautions for vessels operating in or near the affected area.

2. **Introduction**

2.1. According to publicly available international reporting, the security situation in the region has deteriorated significantly. Current information indicates:

- Eight (8) port facilities in the area have been affected.
- Sixteen (16) incidents have been officially reported to date.
- These incidents have resulted in seven (7) fatalities (crew members).

Given the nature and frequency of these events, the situation remains highly volatile and unpredictable.

3. **Recommendations for Vessels**

3.1. In line with global maritime advisories, the Administration of St. Kitts & Nevis strongly recommends that vessels:

- Avoid transiting the affected Strait/Region until stability is restored.
- Maintain a heightened security posture at all times.
- Conduct updated voyage risk assessments prior to routing decisions.
- Review and implement vessel-specific measures in accordance with the ISPS Code, particularly Ship Security Plans (SSP).
- Maintain regular communication with:
 - Company Security Officers (CSO)
 - Relevant Maritime Security Centers
 - Coastal State Authorities

3.2. Vessels already operating in the vicinity should exercise extreme caution, maximize situational awareness, and comply with any directives issued by local authorities or naval forces.

- 3.3. In accordance with the requirements of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), **Flag States must be informed if a vessel's Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) system is switched off. We therefore encourage you to remind vessels of this obligation.**

4. Welfare of Seafarers

- 4.1. The St. Kitts & Nevis Administration expresses its deep concern for the safety and welfare of all seafarers navigating the region. We acknowledge the psychological and operational strain placed on crews during periods of heightened maritime insecurity.
- 4.2. Flag States, Shipowners and other engaged parties are expected to comply with the provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC). Seafarers must not be penalized for exercising their right to repatriation. Wherever possible, remote support should be provided to seafarers, including measures to address fatigue, mental health challenges, and support for their families. Adequate connectivity, including reliable internet access, should be ensured so that seafarers can remain in contact with their loved ones.
- 4.3. We extend our sincere condolences to the families of those affected by recent incidents and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all personnel serving aboard SKAN-flagged vessels.

5. Ongoing Monitoring

- 5.1. The Administration will continue to closely monitor the situation through official maritime security reporting systems and international sources. Further updates or guidance will be issued as necessary.
- 5.2. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has established a dedicated webpage, available at <https://www.imo.org/en/mediacentre/hottopics/pages/middle-east-strait-of-hormuz.aspx>, to publish verified information and is working with relevant partners to ensure that updates provided to the maritime community are accurate and timely. There you can find more details related to shipping and seafarers in the Strait of Hormuz.
- 5.3. Shipowners, Operators, and Masters are encouraged to remain fully informed and to contact the Administration should clarification or further assistance be required.

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

Yours truly,

Gail Stoll
International Registrar of Shipping & Seamen

VERSION CONTROL

VERSION NUMBER	REVISION	DATE AMENDED	AMENDMENTS
1.0	n/a	16/03/2026	Initially issued