



**MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE**  
**SHIPPING CIRCULAR**  
**NO. 9 OF 2023**

MPA Shipping Division  
460 Alexandra Road  
21<sup>st</sup> Storey mTower  
Singapore 119963  
Fax: 6375-6231  
<http://www.mpa.gov.sg>

2 August 2023

**Applicable to:** Ship owners, managers, operators, masters, and agents of Singapore-registered ships.

**ADVISORY FOR SINGAPORE-REGISTERED SHIPS OPERATING OFF THE COAST OF WEST AFRICA INCLUDING THE GULF OF GUINEA**

This shipping circular supersedes Shipping Circular No. 6 of 2018.

2 There have been ongoing security concerns for ships operating off the coast of West Africa, including the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) due to piracy and hijacking incidents. While piracy attacks typically occur within 200 nautical miles from the Coast, two recent pirate attacks in November 2022 and April 2023 respectively were found to have occurred more than 200 nautical miles from the coast of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. Piracy thus continues to pose a threat and the modus operandi are constantly evolving.

3 To counter this threat, MPA strongly recommends that Singapore-registered ships take the necessary precautions to ensure their safety and security when operating in the region:

- i) maintain vigilance and proper lookout, taking into account the evolving trends and the perpetrators' modus operandi;
- ii) review their Ship Security Assessment and Ship Security Plan including regular planned testing of Ship Security Alert System and security drills;
- iii) register with the Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade – Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG) when entering and transiting the voluntary reporting area as per the UKHO chart Q6114 and SHOM chart 8801CSD. The MDAT-GoG can be contacted by phone at +33 2 9822 8888 or by email to [watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org](mailto:watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org) or via website <https://gog-mdat.org/home> (please refer to Annex A for more information);
- iv) report all pirate and hijacking activities promptly, including both actual and attempted attacks, as well as suspicious sightings, to the Singapore Registry of Ships 24/7 hotline at +65 6225 5777 and email [marine@mpa.gov.sg](mailto:marine@mpa.gov.sg), local authorities and the MDAT-GoG; and

- v) implement the guidelines contained in the Best Management Practices West Africa (please refer to Annex B for more information), published by industry organisations and supported by government and military organisations to help mariners detect, deter and delay external threats, when operating in the region.

4 Any queries relating to this circular should be directed to the Singapore Ship Registry at [marine@mpa.gov.sg](mailto:marine@mpa.gov.sg).

CHEAH AUN AUN  
DIRECTOR OF MARINE  
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE