



Maritime Circular No.46

To:

Ship-Owners/ Managers/ Operators, Registration Officers (RegOffs), Recognised Security Organisations (RSOs), SLMARAD Departments (All)

Subject:

Raise of Security Level at EEZ of Ukraine and Russia within Black Sea

Date:

26th September 2024

References:

The International Ship and Port Facility (ISPS) Code

U.S. Maritime Advisory 2022-002

NATO Shipping Centre – NSC Recommendation on the Black Sea

NATO Shipping Centre – Situation on the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov

Purpose

To inform all interested parties about the raise of Ship Security Level to level 3 for all vessel trading in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Ukraine. Vessels trading in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Russia within the Black Sea shall set the security level to level 2.

Application

1. Further to the geopolitical crisis between Russia and Ukraine and taking into consideration the recent marine casualties onboard merchant ships at Ukrainian waters, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration advises all Sierra Leonean vessels to avoid any operations in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of Ukraine and/or Russia within the Black Sea.
2. Ship Security level for all vessels operating within the EEZ of Ukraine is set to **Security Level 3**. Ship Security level for all vessels operating within the EEZ of Russia within the Black Sea is set to **Security Level 2**. Vessels which are currently at Ukrainian ports are advised to depart as soon as safely possible.
3. All Ukrainian ports have been closed by the Ukrainian military forces. In addition, Kerch strait has been closed by the Russian military forces and access to Azov Sea is currently prohibited.
4. All Sierra Leonean vessels trading on the EEZ of Ukraine and/or Russia within the Black Sea shall comply with the below requirements:
 - a. Threat risk assessment to be conducted prior entering the EEZ. Master and CSO shall review and take appropriate measures as per the Ship Security Plan.
 - b. Closely monitor for deviations and failures of navigation and communication data due to disturbances.
 - c. Always report their position through AIS and LRIT. In case of a failure of AIS and/or LRIT equipment the Administration shall be informed immediately.

- d. VHF channel 16 must be monitored on a continuous basis.
 - e. Ensure that the fire-fighting equipment are in order and ready for use.
 - f. Access onboard is strict, controlled and limited to a single point.
5. In case of an incident, vessel must inform the Administration immediately and activate the Ship Security Alert System (SSAS).
 6. The above enters into force on 26/09/2024.

For additional information please contact SLMARAD at info@slmarad.com

Revision Status

| Date | Revision | Comments - Changes |
|------------|----------|---|
| 28/02/2022 | 0 | Initial - Adopted |
| 26/09/2024 | 1 | Amended paragraph 2 for Ship Security Level in Russian ports within the Black Sea |