



Technical Service Circular

Nr. 02/ 2025, 09/10/2025

IMO Developments

Subject: “IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1601/Rev.2 (30 June 2025) – Revised Industry Counter Piracy Guidance”

To: Deputy Registrars, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Shipowners, Ship managers, Operators, Masters, and Seafarers

Summary: The International Maritime Organization (IMO), through its Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) at its 110th session (18–27 June 2025), issued **MSC.1/Circ.1601/Rev.2** on **30 June 2025**, titled “*Revised Industry Counter Piracy Guidance*.” The Circular recognizes and promulgates the **new consolidated Best Management Practices Maritime Security (BMP MS)**, replacing all previous regional versions, namely the Global BMP, BMP5 (covering the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Sea), and BMP West Africa. The consolidated BMP MS provides harmonized global guidance for ships, companies, and seafarers on the prevention and mitigation of piracy and armed robbery threats, aligning with current maritime security developments and technological advancements.

1. Background

1.1 The IMO Maritime Safety Committee, at its 89th session (May 2011), adopted **resolution MSC.324(89)** on the *Implementation of Best Management Practice Guidance*, emphasizing the need for continuous updating of counter-piracy practices. Subsequent revisions and regional versions of the BMP were issued to reflect evolving threats and regional characteristics. The latest revision (Rev.2) consolidates these multiple references into a single, globally applicable framework, reflecting lessons learned and best practices from over a decade of maritime security application.

2. Purpose of the Revision

2.1 The **2025 revision** aims to:

- a. Integrate the various existing regional BMP versions into **one unified BMP MS** document.
- b. Ensure the guidance remains relevant to current maritime security risks, including piracy, armed robbery, and emerging maritime crime trends.

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- c. Provide an updated and practical framework to enhance **company-level risk management** and **shipboard protective measures** worldwide.
- d. Strengthen consistency between industry standards and IMO counter-piracy initiatives.

3. Content of the Annex (BMP MS)

3.1 The annexed **Best Management Practices Maritime Security (BMP MS)** serves as comprehensive guidance for companies, masters, and seafarers, and includes:

- a. Procedures for threat assessment, security planning, and risk mitigation.
- b. Recommendations for layered defense, hardening of vessels, and effective use of shipboard security measures.
- c. Coordination mechanisms with regional reporting and response centers, promoting timely incident reporting and cooperation with naval forces.
- d. Practical checklists and model procedures supporting company-level and onboard implementation.

4. Relationship to IMO Instruments

4.1 The Circular complements and supports existing IMO guidance, notably:

- I. MSC.1/Circ.1333/Rev.1 – *Recommendations to Governments for preventing and suppressing piracy and armed robbery against ships*;
- II. MSC.1/Circ.1334 – *Guidance to shipowners, ship operators, shipmasters and crews on preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships*;
- III. Resolution MSC.324(89) – *Implementation of Best Management Practice Guidance*.

4.2 The BMP MS also aligns with regional counter-piracy frameworks and national maritime security initiatives, ensuring coherence between IMO instruments and industry-led efforts.

5. Guidance for GB ISR Vessels, Managers, and Stakeholders

5.1 The **Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry (GB ISR)** advises all owners, operators, and managers of vessels flying the Guinea-Bissau flag to review and implement the provisions of the new Best Management Practices Maritime Security (BMP MS), as contained in IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1601/Rev.2 (30 June 2025). Shipboard personnel should be familiar with the updated procedures and incorporate them into the **Ship Security Plan (SSP)** and **Company Security Management System (CSMS)**. Compliance with the BMP MS should form part of routine ISPS Code implementation and Company verification activities, particularly for vessels trading in or transiting through areas with known maritime security risks.



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5.2 Owners, operators, and Designated Persons Ashore (DPAs) are encouraged to access the full text of the attached to this TS Circular and BMP MS guidance via the IMO website or through the official industry platform www.maritimoglobalsecurity.org.

For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

Authorized Signatory:

Office of the General Ships Registrar



Attached (in electronic form):

IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1601/Rev.2, 30 June 2025, (p.62).