

Circular 2018/001

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**Communications and notifications related to the use of maritime security companies for the combat against piracy**

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Date: 02/05/2018

To whom it may concern,

This circular replaces circular 2013/001

This circular serves the partial implementation of the following legal instruments:

- the Law of 16 January 2013 containing several measures regarding the combat against maritime piracy
- the royal decree of 6 March 2013 regarding the communications and notifications by the registered owners or operators of ships required when they make use of maritime security company.

**1. Communication of contracts with the maritime security companies to the minister competent for maritime transport.**

A electronic copy of any contract with a maritime security company shall be sent to the following email address:

[maritime.security@mobiliteit.fgov.be](mailto:maritime.security@mobiliteit.fgov.be)  
[maritimesecurity.report@ibz.fgov.be](mailto:maritimesecurity.report@ibz.fgov.be)

**2. Prior notification of voyages during which an authorized security company will be used.**

Prior to the sea voyage during which an authorized security company will be used to protect the ship against piracy, a notification shall be sent to the Director General of the Directorate general Shipping, to the Maritime Inspectorate of the FPS Mobility and Transport and the FPS Home Affaires through the below mentioned email addresses:

[maritime.security@mobiliteit.fgov.be](mailto:maritime.security@mobiliteit.fgov.be)  
[maritimesecurity.report@ibz.fgov.be](mailto:maritimesecurity.report@ibz.fgov.be)

The notification shall include the following:

- the name and IMO number of the ship;
- the planned time and place of the embarkation and disembarkation of the security agents;
- the number of security agents, their name and nationality;
- the details of the operational leader of the security agents on board of the ship;
- the inventory of the weapons brought on board.

**3. Notification of incidents in connection with piracy.**

Incidents in connection with the combat against piracy, such as the opening of fire from the ship, pirate attack, boarding of the ship by pirates, are to be reported by the captain, owner or operator of the ship to the Belgian authority. A report has to be sent to the following email address:

[Maritime.security@mobiliteit.fgov.be](mailto:Maritime.security@mobiliteit.fgov.be)

The notification shall include:

- the name and IMO number of the ship;
- the name of the shipowner;
- a short description of the development and consequences of the incident;
- the location and local date and time of the incident;
- the nature of the incident;
- a description of the actions taken or planned thereafter, related to the incident;
- the contact details of the person(s) designated by the shipowner for communication with the Belgian authority with regard to the incident;
- all other relevant information

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