



Mr Maciej Popowski,
Chairman,
Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

2 October 2015

Dear Mr Popowski,

INDIAN OCEAN PIRACY HRA

The undersigned co-sponsors of BMP are pleased to present the findings of their recent risk assessment on the extent of the High Risk Area (HRA) which are at the Annex to this letter. The revised HRA, and its accompanying guidance, has been developed taking into account risk assessments and discussions at the fourteenth session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and has resulted in an amendment to Section 2 of BMP4.

The undersigned have agreed that the current HRA should be reduced in area to reflect the recent experience of ships in the Indian Ocean as well as all available data provided by military headquarters. This will be effective from **1 December 2015** allowing time for implementation.

The revised area acknowledges the variable nature of the piracy risk in the region as highlighted by the SHADE threat assessment and recognises the vital contribution of military counter-piracy forces, whilst at the same time trying to ensure that awareness and self-protection by merchant ships endure. The importance of reporting to UKMTO and registering with MSCHOA, and the fundamental necessity of pre-voyage risk assessment is emphasised in the changed definition. Furthermore, the HRA is now reconfigured to new coordinates recognising the proposals made to the Contact Group; and designating an area in which merchant ships should apply the appropriate self-protection measures.

The undersigned believe this revision reflects the dynamic nature of the piracy risk in the region and of BMP itself. It should be underlined successful counter-piracy activity depends upon the continuation of several pillars of support provided by political and military action and the actions of the merchant fleet. The undersigned are committed to the continuation of the work of the CGPCS and believe this review demonstrates that commitment.

Industry will release a press statement at 0900 on 8 October 2015 until this time the findings of the review remain confidential.

We request that you circulate this letter and its Annex to States that attend the CGPCS for their information.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Hinchliffe

ICS



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