

**Subject:** Preventive measures in response to the escalating conflict in Iran - Navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea

**To:** Shipowners, Companies, Operators and Representatives

**Objective:**

Considering the recent developments in Iran, including the coordinated U.S.-Israeli military strikes of 28 February 2026 and subsequent Iranian retaliatory actions, the Portuguese Maritime Administration (DGRM) wishes to draw attention to the significant rise in maritime security risks in the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding waters. Multiple sources confirm that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has issued VHF radio transmissions instructing vessels that “no ship is allowed to pass the Strait of Hormuz,” leading to a 70% reduction in vessel traffic and suspension of operations by major shipping companies.

The increased military presence, active missile and drone activity, and explicit threats of maritime disruption pose serious threats to the safety of Portuguese-flagged vessels. All Masters and operators are strongly advised to avoid the area unless absolutely necessary. Should a vessel’s transit through these regions be deemed essential, the highest security measures must be implemented as outlined below.

**Application:**

Due to confirmed missile and drone attacks, IRGC warnings prohibiting transit, and the presence of U.S. and Iranian military assets, all Portuguese-flagged ships operating in the region are advised to implement MARSEC/ISPS Security Level 3 measures.

The Portuguese Maritime Administration strongly discourage transit through the relevant areas.

This advisory applies to the following areas:

- Strait of Hormuz
- Persian Gulf

- Gulf of Oman
- Arabian Sea, especially areas within potential strike range- Zones of confirmed military build-up (U.S., Israel, Iran)

Additional recommendations include:

- Enhance deck and external surveillance patrols
- Maintain full illumination and detection systems during nighttime navigation
- Keep a minimum distance of 30 nautical miles from military vessels, as recommended by maritime security alerts
- Maintain readiness for evasive maneuvers
- Ensure continuous communication with relevant maritime authorities

Essential Operational Recommendations:

- Avoid transiting the Strait of Hormuz and nearby waters unless operationally unavoidable
- Reassess all intended port calls in the Gulf region due to potential sudden restrictions or closures.
- Maintain continuous contact with relevant maritime authorities
- Review and implement all SSP provisions related to illegal boarding, detention, or armed attack scenarios.
- Immediately notify DGRM of any suspicious activity, threats, or operational disruptions.

**Additional information contact:**

For any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us through the following email addresses:

[isps.assist@dgrm.pt](mailto:isps.assist@dgrm.pt) | [marad@dgrm.pt](mailto:marad@dgrm.pt)