



'Bridge Cards' for use in high-risk areas

Updated 27 July 2022: A set of quick reference 'Bridge Cards' can be a useful safety aide memoire for masters and crews on vessel transiting a high-risk area - particularly during times of tension caused by piracy attacks or other security threats.

Published 09 February 2021

Heightened military and political tensions in the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden and Red Sea region continue to pose serious threats to commercial vessels. At the same time, the waters off West Africa and South-East Asia remain piracy hotspots.

In recognition of these continuing security threats, the following quick reference 'Bridge Cards' have been published:

- **IMSC Bridge Cards**

: The International Maritime Security Construct ([IMSC](#))

) has produced a set of bridge cards for use on board vessels transiting the **Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, and Red Sea region**

. The cards, which are intended to complement existing industry guidance and the [BMP5](#)

, were updated in February 2021 to account for the increased risk of floating and limpet mines in the Middle East region. The

[IMSC Brochure](#)

may also be useful.

- **OCIMF Bridge Cards**

: The Oil Companies International Marine Forum ([OCIMF](#))

) Maritime Security Committee has produced a set of bridge cards for use on board vessels transiting the

Gulf of Guinea region

. The cards, which are intended to complement existing industry guidance and the [BMP West Africa](#)

, were published in December 2020 in response to the ever-increasing threat faced by those operating in the Gulf of Guinea region.

- **IFC Bridge Card**

: The Information Fusion Centre ([IFC](#))

) is a regional Maritime Security (MARSEC) centre hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy. In May 2022, the IFC released a bridge card offering guidance to vessels operating in the Voluntary Community Reporting (VCR) Area in

South-East Asia

. The card complements existing guidance provided by the

[Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia](#)

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Why Bridge Cards are useful

Bridge Cards are quick reference guides that aim to support mariners during times of tension caused by piracy attacks or other security threats. They summarize and present important information in a clear, unambiguous, and easy to perceive manner, including reporting routines, contact details of regional reporting centers, how to detect a suspicious approach or attack early on, as well as recommended actions that can be taken in response to a number of malign activity situations. While the cards are complementary to the information provided in a ship's own security plan, BMPs, and security charts, they can be a useful safety aide memoire

for masters and crews to adhere to when transiting the high-risk areas. We therefore encourage ship operators and Masters to take the guidance provided in the above referenced Bridge Cards into consideration in circumstances where their vessels may be exposed to security risks.

Additional sources of information

The Maritime Global Security website at www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org offers industry issued best practices, including BMPs, and other guidance to mariners by geographic region and type of security threat. Relevant information is also available via Gard's hot topic page [Piracy and armed robbery at sea](#) .