

VANUATU INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING REGISTRY
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Setting of Maritime Security Level 3 (MARSEC Level 3) and Strong Recommendation Against Port Calls and Navigation within Iranian Jurisdictional Waters

Applicable to: This FLEET SAFETY LETTER should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators, Masters of Vanuatu-registered ships and Recognized Organizations

1. Introduction and Background

The Vanuatu International Shipping Registry (VISR) continues to monitor the critical security environment in the Middle East. Due to the severe escalation of geopolitical tensions and the confirmed maritime blockade effective April 13, 2026, the Administration has determined that the threat to maritime security is now imminent.

2. Mandatory Security Level Upgrade

Pursuant to SOLAS Regulation XI-2/3.1 and ISPS Code Section A/4.1, Maritime Security Level 3 (MARSEC Level 3) is hereby set for all vessels flying the flag of Vanuatu while navigating, operating, or anchored within the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Northern Arabian Sea. This measure supersedes the previous MARSEC Level 2 requirement and is effective immediately.

3. Advisory Measures and Recommendations

In addition to the mandatory security measures required under the vessel's Ship Security Plan (SSP) for MARSEC Level 3, the following are strongly recommended:

- **Avoidance of Iranian Jurisdiction:** All Vanuatu-flagged vessels are strongly urged to refrain from calling at any Iranian ports and should strictly avoid transiting through Iranian territorial waters or maritime jurisdictions.
- **Safe Standoff Distance:** Vessels transiting the high-risk area should maintain a minimum standoff distance of 30 nautical miles from any naval assets or military units to prevent misidentification or accidental involvement in military activities.

4. Reporting and Communication

Masters and Company Security Officers (CSO) must maintain close and continuous communication with the following regional maritime security centers:

- **UKMTO:** watchkeepers@ukmto.org
- **MSCHOA:** postmaster@mschoa.org
- **NCAGS:** m-ba-cusnc-ncags@me.navy.mil

5. Compliance and Administrative Action

The Administration views the safety of the crew and vessel as its highest priority. Failure to adhere to these urgent security protocols or engaging in activities that jeopardize the vessel may result in the immediate suspension of the vessel's registration under the Vanuatu flag.



Berke Ayazli
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The Republic of Vanuatu