



Port Security Advisory (8-09)

PORT STATE RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING CARRIAGE AND TRANSPORT OF SELF-DEFENSE WEAPONS ABOARD U.S. COMMERCIAL VESSELS

U. S. Coast Guard Maritime Security Directive 104-6 (series) requires **U.S. flagged vessels** operating in the Horn of Africa (HOA) and Gulf of Aden (GOA) regions to evaluate their vulnerability and provide additional armed or unarmed security as needed. Port Security Advisory (4-09) - International Trafficking in Arms Regulations (ITAR) Guidance to U.S. vessel owners, operators, and security teams - provided additional guidelines on the laws associated with arming security personnel on vessels. In May 2009, The U.S. Department of State sent a demarche on behalf of the U.S. commercial shipping industry to determine port state laws and restrictions on the carriage of self-defense weapons for vessels operating in high risk waters. The U.S. interagency is committed to providing U.S. vessel owners, operators, and security teams with as accurate and up-to-date information as possible, therefore the list of port state responses will be updated as new information is received.

At the time of this posting only five nations have responded. It is anticipated that the responses will either be favorable, favorable with stipulations/restrictions or unfavorable. The U.S. Department of State has committed to continue to work with the rest of interagency interests and industry to identify high priority ports and to ask port states for a response to the demarche. U.S. vessel owners and operators affected by this Port Security Advisory are requested to provide the Coast Guard with specific port call information so that a prioritized list of ports can be compiled.

U.S. vessels considering operating in High Risk Waters with armed security are directed to review the port state responses often. The information will be posted on the U.S. Coast Guard's Homeport, as well as U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)/ Maritime Administration (MARAD)'s Maritime Advisories websites:

U.S. Coast Guard
<http://homeport.uscg.mil/piracy>

U.S. Maritime Administration
http://www.marad.dot.gov/news_room_landing_page/maritime_advisories/advisory_summary.htm

THE CONDITIONS OF ENTRY APPLICABLE TO VESSELS OUTLINED IN PORT SECURITY ADVISORY 7-09 REMAIN IN EFFECT.