



Date: 03rd March 2022

Circular no.: 0055C/TG/03/22

To: Ship-owners / Operators, Managers, Representatives of Togo flagged vessels, Deputy Registrars, Masters and Recognized Organizations

Subject: THE RUSSIA - UKRAINE CONFLICT

References:

- a) NATO shipping Centre: NSC Recommendation on the Black Sea
<https://shipping.nato.int/nsc/operations/news/-2022/nsc-recomendation-on-the-black-sea> &
Situation on the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov <https://shipping.nato.int/nsc/operations/news/-2022/situation-on-the-black-sea-and-the-sea-of-azov>
- b) U.S. Maritime Advisory 2022-002 Black Sea and Sea of Azov - Risks Due to Regional Tensions: <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci/2022-002-black-sea-and-sea-azov-risks-due-regional-tensions>

GENERAL:

In the light of a recent case of a Togolese flagged vessel and the crew being blocked in the port of Berdyansk by the Russian Coast Guard, please be informed as follows:

As per February 28 2022, ship movements and cargo operations are suspended at Mariupol and Berdyansk. There had been reported some damage to Ukrainian port infrastructure and that all Ukrainian ports have been closed. Seafarers are also not permitted to leave their ships. Yeisk, Rostov, Taganrog, are not accessible to commercial vessels since access to the Sea of Azov through the Kerch Strait is currently blocked by Russian forces.

According to press information Russia's Navy & Coast Guard had blocked about 100 foreign flagged ships in Ukrainian ports and the Maritime Administration of Ukraine is working out how to repatriate foreign seafarers locked in its ports.

Russia appears to have launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine and maritime security will likely be affected.

GUIDANCE:

a) For Togo flagged vessels trading in Russian or Ukrainian ports, ship masters are strongly advised to contact local agents for the latest advisories. Company Security Officers (CSOs) and Ship Security Officers (SSOs) should obtain security level information prior to entering ports through the appropriate Port Authorities. Ships should comply with the Port Facility security level if it is higher than the security level set onboard.

b) Ship Security level for vessels within the EEZ of Ukraine or Russia within the Black Sea is set to Security Level 3. Commercial vessels are advised to avoid any transit or operation within the EEZ of Ukraine or Russia within the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. It is recommended that journeys to the Black Sea are carefully considered and planned based on an assessment of the escalating security situation.



- c) Togo flagged commercial vessels in Black Sea are advised to exercise caution, conduct a risk assessment, review security measures, and incorporate appropriate protective measures into their vessel security plans. Vessels should ensure AIS is transmitting at all times (except when the master believes that continuing to operate AIS might compromise the safety or security of the ship or when a security incident is imminent), consistent with provisions of the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), and monitor VHF Channel 16.
- d) In the event of any incident Togo flagged commercial vessels should activate the Ship Security Alert System immediately and notify the NATO Shipping Center and the TOGO Registrar.
- e) Vessels in these areas may encounter GPS interference, AIS spoofing, and/or other communications jamming.
- f) In case a vessel is located at an Ukrainian port or is blocked, plans to depart should be arranged as safely as possible. In case such departure is being obstructed by Russian military & navy forces or in any way, it is strongly recommended to comply with their instructions. The Togo Registrar should be contacted immediately for the necessary actions to be taken at a diplomatic level by the Togolese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Shipping, particularly seafarers, cannot be collateral victims in a larger political and military crisis – they must be safe and secure as IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim said in his Statement on 26 February 2022.

Contact Information:

- a) NATO Shipping Center (NSC): info@shipping.nato.int or +44 (0) 1923-956-574. NSC Advisories and warnings can be found at <https://shipping.nato.int/nsc>
- b) Registrar for Togo flagged vessels: Mrs. Vera N. Medawar: administration@togoregistrar.com / or security@togoregistrar.com +961-1-883794.

For the International Ship Registry of Togo



Vera N. Medawar
Ship Registrar

For the Togolese Maritime Authority



GNAMA K. Mawaïboyodou
Technical Advisor to the Minister