



Department  
for Transport

OFFICIAL

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To: Maritime Security Contacts

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## TRAINING CERTIFICATES – ARMED GUARDS

Dear Colleague,

We have been made aware of some instances where certificates detailing skills and qualifications of armed security guards recruited by Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSCs) to work on ships in the piracy High Risk Area are not being checked with the desired level of thoroughness.

UK ship operators and PMSCs are reminded of the importance of checking these documents carefully. The checks should include contact with the training body named as issuing the certificate to confirm details shown and document authenticity. Please refer to DfT Interim Guidance to UK Flagged Shipping on the Use of Armed Guards to Defend against the Threat of Piracy in Exceptional Circumstances Version 1.2 sections 3.9 - 3.14 for further details: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/interim-guidance-to-uk-flagged-shipping-on-the-use-of-armed-guards-to-defend-against-the-threat-of-piracy-in-exceptional-circumstances>

It is extremely important that each individual armed guard employed on UK ships has received the necessary training and certification and your due diligence in ensuring this is the case is therefore essential. Your cooperation in this important matter is greatly appreciated

If you require further clarification please contact: [MARITIMESECURITY@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MARITIMESECURITY@dft.gsi.gov.uk) or call Terry Egan on 020 7944 6731

Yours sincerely,

**Petra Wilkinson**  
Head of Maritime Security and Resilience