



ASPIDES/SA/257-12

Larissa, 21 July 2025

EUNAVFOR ASPIDES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SEAFARERS

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Always consider the *Best Management Practices Maritime Security (BMP MS)*. The BMP MS can be downloaded from www.mschio.eu/bmp/.
- Maritime Security Center Indian Ocean (MSC IO) is ASPIDES portal for the shipping community. Internet address is <https://mschio.eu>; Email address is postmaster@mschio.org.
- Register to the MSCIO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) through MSC IO web page (initial report, yellow button). Registration is voluntary but recommended to all vessels passing the area.

ASPIDES SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Before sailing off the coast of Yemen in the South Red Sea and in the Gulf of Aden:

- Take into account the most recent ASPIDES ADVISORY found on MSC IO web site under the "Advisories" page (<https://mschio.eu/single-information-framework-sif-products/>) and conduct a thorough risk analysis of past port calls made in Mediterranean, Red-Sea and other ports according to last ASPIDES assessment. **This applies to all vessels belonging to the shipping company.**
- To request protection from ASPIDES units you can,
 - submit request support (grey button), or
 - download the offline support request template from the web page and email it to MSCIO.

Note 1: All requests for ASPIDES protection have to be submitted to MSC IO no later than 72 hours in advance.

- Conduct damage control drills onboard including an SSAS test, prior approaching the area.
- For detailed guidance and recommendations, Company Security Officers have to communicate with MSC IO.



SAILING UNDER ASPIDES PROTECTION

Always follow the guidance of the ASPIDES unit. Failure to do so may lead to interruption or cancellation of the protection.

WHAT IS ASPIDES

ASPIDES is a European Union operation launched on 19 February 2024 with the aim of contributing to the Freedom of Navigation in the area of operation located in the Northwest Indian Ocean. The operation has since been contributing to the safe passage of shipping through the Strait of Bab al- Mandeb between the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The nature of operation ASPIDES is defensive and de-escalatory but it is authorized to use force in a credible manner when needed.

Helpful Internet links

- www.mscio.eu/bmp/
- <https://mscio.eu>
- <https://mscio.eu/single-information-framework-sif-products/>
- <https://www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org/geography/global/>