REVISED INDUSTRY COUNTER PIRACY GUIDANCE

1. The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-ninth session (11 to 20 May 2011) having, inter alia, recognized the importance of the Best Management Practices (BMP) and the need to comply with the provisions therein, adopted resolution MSC.324(89) on Implementation of Best Management Practice Guidance, and expressed its general understanding of the need to keep the BMP alive, relevant, dynamic and updated.

2. The Committee noted that the industry group was working on a revision to the Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and in the Arabian Sea Area. The Committee therefore authorized the Chair and the Secretariat to distribute the revised Best Management Practices guidance without waiting for the Committee’s prior approval and subsequently endorsed MSC.1/Circ.1339 retrospectively at its ninetieth session (16 to 25 May 2012).

3. At its 100th session (3 to 7 December 2018), the Committee noted that the shipping industry had comprehensively reviewed and updated its guidance on piracy and armed robbery, resulting in the development of Global Counter Piracy Guidance for Companies, Masters and Seafarers; the revised Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea (BMP5); the guidelines for protection against piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea region (Version 3); and the launch of a dedicated security website: www.maritiméglobalsecurity.org

4. The Committee further noted that the new and revised guidance takes into account developments in piracy and maritime security since the publication of BMP4, including the development of further regional guidance, changes in pirate modus operandi and the establishment of new regional reporting mechanisms. The guidance is publicly available and is intended to assist companies and seafarers to further mitigate maritime security threats, and help increase the security of world trade. Consequently, the Committee approved the Revised Industry Counter Piracy Guidance set out in the annexes.

5. Member Governments are invited to take note of the Global Counter Piracy Guidance for Companies, Masters and Seafarers, as set out in annex 1; the revised Best Management Practices (BMP5), as set out in annex 2; and protection against piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea region as set out in annex 3; and advise owners, operators and managers of ships entitled to fly their flag, as well as the shipboard personnel employed or engaged on such ships, to act accordingly.
6 The Guidance provided in annex 1 is intended to support existing IMO guidance, namely the Recommendations to Governments for preventing and suppressing piracy and armed robbery against ships (MSC.1/Circ. 1333/Rev.1), the Guidance to shipowners and ship operators, shipmasters and crews on preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships (MSC.1/Circ.1334) and resolution MSC.324(89) on Implementation of Best Management Practice Guidance, and is complementary to regional initiatives which provide more detailed guidance specific to the threat in a particular region.

7 International organizations are also invited to take note of the Guidance and to advise their membership to act accordingly.

8 Member Governments and international organizations are invited to consider bringing the results of the experience gained with the application of this guidance to the attention of the Committee.

9 This circular revokes MSC.1/Circ.1339.