



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG-2025-0048]

Revisions to Maritime Security (MARSEC) Directive 104–6; Guidelines for U.S.

Vessels Operating in High Risk Waters

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard announces the availability of Revision 9 to Maritime Security (MARSEC) Directive 104–6, which provides guidelines for U.S. vessels operating in high-risk waters (HRW) where acts of terrorism, piracy, and armed robbery against ships are prevalent. The directive contains security-sensitive information and, therefore, cannot be made available to the general public. U.S. vessel owners and operators who have needed to take action under previous versions of MARSEC Directive 104–6, should immediately contact their local Coast Guard Captain of the Port or District Commander for a copy of Revision 9. This revision contains important updates to HRW locations and organizational responsibilities regarding addressing security risks in those waters.

DATES: MARSEC Directive 104-6 (Revision 9) has been available since January 10, 2025. MARSEC Directive 104-6 (Revision 8) is no longer valid after that date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about this document call or e-mail Commander Andrew Czarniak; U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance; telephone 202-372-1236, e-mail cgcvc@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Maritime Security (MARSEC) Directive 104–6 Revision 9 replaces Revision 8, previously signed on August 11, 2021. The directive provides direction to U.S. flagged vessels operating in High Risk Waters (HRW) where acts of terrorism, piracy, and armed

robbery against ships are prevalent. This revision reflects the addition of provisions for the reduction of electronic vessel transmissions, an amendment to the applicability of Annex 1 to include the high risk waters of the Red Sea and Arabian Sea, and a revision to the northern limits of the high risk waters of the Red Sea.

Electronic vessel transmissions broadly include any device onboard capable of generating a radio frequency signal with or without operator intervention. Examples of electronic vessel transmissions include those from cellular and satellite phone systems, vessel-to-vessel and vessel-to-shore radio transmission equipment, Automatic Identification System, Long Range Identification and Tracking Systems, and radar.

U.S. vessel owners and operators who have needed to take action under previous versions of MARSEC Directive 104–6 should immediately contact their local Coast Guard Captain of the Port or District Commander for a copy of Revision 9, which contains important updates to the locations of HRW and to the guidelines for addressing security risks in those waters. The Coast Guard advises owners and operators that, under Revision 9, they may need to take specific actions in accordance with MARSEC Directive 104–6 before their vessel enters HRW.

This notice is issued under authority of 33 CFR 101.405(a)(2) and 5 U.S.C. 552(a).

Dated: January 31, 2025.

A. M. Beach
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard,
Director of Inspections and Compliance

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