

4 July 2012

Togo implements new anti-piracy measures

As reported in the recent Gard Alert "[Piracy – increasing number of attacks in the Gulf of Guinea](#)", West African piracy attacks are increasing, both in number and range, and Gard's Members and clients using anchorages in the Gulf of Guinea are advised to be vigilant and maintain anti-piracy watches and measures at all times. Compliance with Best Management Practices (BMP) is recommended as the "default" position but a full risk assessment should be part of the area specific evaluations.

The BUDD Group, Gard's correspondent in Togo, reported on [26 June 2012](#) that the Togolese government has reached an agreement with security companies for the provision of armed guards for vessels at anchorages in the port of Lome and has provided the following information and recommendations:

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

A. What you have to do:

- a) *When dropping anchor, vessels should be 3-4 NM from Benin and Ghanaian territorial waters, giving Togolese Navy Patrol Boats sufficient time and distance to chase any attacking pirates.*
- b) *Vessels must be equipped with Digital Selective Calling (DSC) radio to enable the Togolese Navy to identify them quickly in case of an attack.*
- c) *Use normal communication procedures during pirate attacks, i.e., radio a mayday call*

B. What you should not do:

- a) *Never establish a relationship with the fishermen, in particular with fishermen from neighbouring waters other than Togolese waters or with fishermen from Togo with no registration numbers on their fishing boats.*
- b) *Do not enter into any illegal relationships/business with shipping agencies and/or their staff. Do not have any dealings with the agents without the knowledge of the port authorities.*

A penalty/fine will be imposed on any vessel which fails to follow any of the above regulations.

LOME PORT TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The secured anchorage area is 1 NM from the West African gas pipeline and 6 NM from the breakwater.

Radio Communication:

- *Lome Port has a VHF station which transmits on channels 16, 14, 12 day and night.*
- *A radio homing transmitter transmits on 379 kHz.*
- *Signal "LME" Pos.: 06° 10'N and 01° 16, 3' East.*
- *Lome has a Radio Coast Station; working frequencies are 500 and 472 kHz.*
- *Call signal "5VA".*
- *VHF Radiotelephone on channel 16*
- *Medium wave telephone on 2182 kHz when requested.*
- *The Togolese Navy has a VHF station working on channels 16, 10 day and night*

Vessel Arrival Notification:

- *Vessel's agents are to be informed as early as possible of the vessel's expected time of arrival (ETA) in Lome.*
- *Vessels must call the Togolese Navy and Lome port control before dropping anchor.*
- *The ETA notification should contain information such as the vessel's particulars and the type and quantity of cargo to be handled. ETA notification can also be sent by telex directly to the port, Telex no.: 5243 TGPORT TO.*

We thank the BUDD Group (www.budd-pni.com) for the above information.