

Circular From NORTH**Date: 15 August 2018****Maritime Security****OCIMF Releases Guidance on Vessel Hardening**

The Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF) has released guidelines on vessel hardening to help prevent unauthorised boarding.

In their guidance, OCIMF recommends a layered defence approach to hardening vessels:

- First layer: prevents unauthorised access to the vessel.
- Second layer: prevents or delays access to the accommodation block, stores and machinery spaces.
- Third layer: prevents or delays access to the citadel, the safe location for crew to retreat to if all other defences are breached.

The paper also recommends using a Vessel Hardening Plan and provides an example plan to help in preparing for calls in areas of increased security risk. Although the focus is on vessels when underway, measures are also examined for vessels at anchor and alongside.

OCIMF say this new guidance complements the recent industry publication Global Counter Piracy Guidance for Companies, Masters and Seafarers and regional best practices such as BMP5: Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea.

Guidelines to Harden Vessels can be read [here](#) or is free to download [here](#).

Source of Information: North of England P&I Club