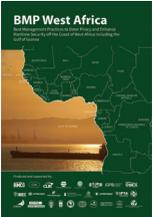


'Q Card' BMP West Africa – 8

Operating with Security Escort Vessels

Companies should check the credentials and licences/permits of the PMSC.



BMP does not recommend or endorse the general use of SEVs to accompany merchant ships; this is a decision taken by individual ship operators.



The escort plan, RV position and communication arrangements should be agreed in advance.

Planning should consider that SEVs may have operating restrictions.

Regular communication should be maintained.

The SEV will be positioned to defend the vessel at all times and be reactive to intercept any approaching suspicious craft.

Authorisation to use force rests with the military detachment onboard the SEV.

The Master / Bridge Crew can aid the SEV with early detection and warning.

SEV should not enter any terminal or facility exclusion zone.

A contract for the provision of SEVs must:

- Not prejudice the ship's insurance cover arrangements.
- Ensure the PMSC has insurance policies that are current and compliant with the requirements of the contract.
- Ensure the PMSC can legally operate the SEV in accordance with coastal state law.
- Ensure the SEV is fit for purpose.