

Egypt - Carriage of Weapons, Ammunition and Armed Guards - Further Update

A further change in the requirements governing the carriage of weapons, ammunition and armed guards on vessels within Egyptian waters has been applied.

A recent Egyptian Ministry of Defence conference to discuss the issue of weapons, ammunition and armed guards onboard vessels published the following additional requirement:

1. Agents are required to present a declaration for vessels having weapons, ammunition and armed guards onboard visiting Egyptian ports or transiting the Suez Canal to the relevant Police Department. The declaration shall include the following information:
 - Details of the weapons / ammunition on board: number of weapons, their calibre and their serial numbers as well as the quantity of ammunition
 - The nationalities of security personnel (armed guards)
 - That the weapons and ammunition will be placed in a sealed box

The additional regulatory requirements as referred to in our earlier news article dated 22 February 2012 are also to be complied with; an updated free translation of which is reproduced below for guidance:

“In case of the existence of arms onboard vessels calling at Egyptian Ports:

The Master should seal the weapons and issue a certificate in this respect to be presented to the pilot at the anchorage area. This certificate will include the Master’s declaration that he will deliver to the Port Police on completion of mooring operations the weapons in a sealed box after inspection by the Port Police provided that the box and weapons are to be given back to the Master on departure.

In case of abstention, the vessel shall not be allowed to enter the port with weapons.

In case of the existence of arms onboard vessel transiting the Suez Canal:

The Civil Police (Port Security Department) shall take delivery of the weapons transiting the Suez Canal at the entering point and will transport them inland to be redelivered to the vessel’s crew at the exit point of the Suez Canal.

In case weapons are deployed onboard the vessels during their stay in territorial waters, berthing in sea ports, stay in waiting areas at inner or outer anchorages and / or during transiting the Suez Canal, the Masters will be held accountable according to the Egyptian Laws, including detaining the ship / Master / persons carrying the arms without a permit and will be subjected to the law No. 394 / 1954 as amended concerning arms and ammunition carriage and possession without a license. They will be referred to the competent general prosecution (parquet) pending its decision following issuance of an apprehension police report by the competent department.”

Although the foregoing requirements are presently being enforced, further changes to the regulatory regime concerning the carriage of weapons, ammunition and armed guards in Egyptian waters cannot be ruled out.