

"SARNIA NEWS" CIRCULAR

(Ref: 261/15/GP)

To: ALL SHIPOWNER CLIENTS

11th March, 2015

RE: UNAUTHORIZED HEALTH CHECKS OF CREWS AND CHARGES AT PORT SAID, EGYPT

Please find below a global **ALERT** from Gray Page, which provides important information regarding a company named **UNITED MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING**, which is operating in Port Said. It has come to light that representatives of this company are boarding vessels on the pretence of being authorised by the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) to carry out health checks, which include blood tests on crew members. The Master is thereafter being charged with the costs of these health checks.

The SCA has confirmed that they have not given such authorisation to this Company and they are urging ship owners to notify their Masters to deny access to any representative claiming to be working for this Company.

The SCA has recommended that the Master should immediately report to the SCA if any approach is made. Gray Page is a specialist maritime consulting group that solves problems around the world for organizations operating in the international shipping market. Often working in sensitive circumstances and complex environments, Gray Page provides investigative, intelligence, and risk management expertise, that helps their clients manage particular commercial and operational risks, respond to crisis events and recover from the damage caused by the default, negligence or malicious acts of third parties.

Further information can be found on their website: www.graypage.com

With kind regards,
Loss Prevention Team

Risk: Unauthorised health checks of crews and charges at Port Said, Egypt

Background

A P&I correspondent has reported that the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) has issued a letter to Port Said Chamber of Shipping, the port police, the Egyptian Coast Guard and the Egyptian Navy stationed at Port Said advising of a company seeking to carry out unauthorised health checks of crews on board vessels waiting at Port Said anchorage.

The letter advises that a company named United Mediterranean Shipping is attending on board anchored vessels and requiring crews to undergo health checks including blood analysis. The company claims that they are acting upon instructions issued by the SCA, although the SCA has since confirmed that no such instructions have been given. Following these health checks, the United Mediterranean Shipping representatives make demands on the Master for payment.

Assessment and Analysis

Shipowners and ship managers of vessel's calling at Port Said should make their Masters aware of this situation.

It is not known whether the representatives of United Mediterranean Shipping are qualified and approved health care practitioners. However, the SCA recommends that all Masters of vessels deny access to any representative of United Mediterranean Shipping and immediately notify the authorities and the SCA if they make an attempt to board their vessel.