

MCI Circular 338/2026

To: Owners, Commercial Operators, ISM managers, MCI team and Agents

Subject: Cancellation of War Risk Covers

Date: 4th March 2026

Attachments:

[Joint War Committee Listed Areas \(JWC JWLA-033\)](#)

[MSCIO Advisory 01 2026](#)

Summary:

Following circulars issued on **March 1/2, 2026**, several major insurance underwriters have issued a **Notice of Cancellation** in respect of War Risk covers with the following timeline:

- **Effective Date:** Immediate
- **Termination Date:** Coverage will officially terminate on **March 5, 2026**.

This industry-wide action primarily affects non-mutual business, including Charterers' Liability, Fixed Premium P&I, and various non-poolable extensions. The notices are applicable to both merchant vessels and yachts.

Summary of Circulars

The table below summarizes the specific notices issued so far by the relevant Clubs and insurers. These notices generally exclude coverage for liabilities arising in Iranian waters and the Persian/Arabian Gulf region, defined as follows:

Persian/Arabian Gulf and adjacent waters including the Gulf of Oman and waters west of the line from Oman's territorial limit off Cape al-Hadd at 22°42.5'N, 59°54.5'E northeast to the Iran-Pakistan border at 25°10.5'N, 61°37.5'E.

On 3 March The Joint War Committee (see attached JWC JWLA-033) has added Bahrain, Djibouti, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar to its Hull War, Piracy, Terrorism and Related Perils Listed Areas, and amended the boundaries of the broader Persian/Arabian Gulf – Gulf of Oman – Indian Ocean – Gulf of Aden – Southern Red Sea area.

While application is policy-by-policy, listings typically result in additional premiums and stricter terms for calls/transits within the defined waters.

Insurance Company	Circular Reference (March 2026)	Termination Effective
The American Club	Circular No. 05/26	March 5, 2026 (00:00 GMT)
Skuld	Notice of Cancellation (March 1/2)	March 5, 2026 (00:00 GMT)
Gard	Member Circular No. 01/2026	March 5, 2026 (00:00 GMT)
Hydor	Notice of Cancellation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 5, 2026
NorthStandard	Notice of Cancellation	March 5, 2026 (00:00 GMT)
The Shipowners' Club	Notice of Alteration / Cancellation	March 5, 2026 (23:59 GMT)
UK P&I	Circular 04/26	March 5, 2026 (00:00 GMT)
West of England	Notice No. 1 2026/27	March 4/5, 2026 (72h Notice)
Steamship Mutual	Circular No. L.478 / E.133	March 4/5, 2026 (72h Notice)

Actions required related to insurance covers

MCI urges owners and managers of Cook Islands registered vessels currently operating in the geographical areas indicated in the Notices and in the JWLA to contact their insurance providers to:

- verify the validity of their insurance covers, and;
- take any action necessary to ensure the vessels P&I and mandatory financial security for seafarers onboard remain valid.

MCI will require owners and managers of all Cook Islands registered vessels, irrespectively of their area of operations, to send through a copy of any updated P&I policies they might receive from their insurance providers following these developments.

Further Actions

In light of the military development in the Wider Gulf region, MCI urges its registered vessels not to enter the areas affected by military operations.

Vessels already operating in the region, shall follow MCI Circular 337/2026 and any other available industry advisory notices and updates.

MCI encourages owners and operators to:

- make conservative routing choices and elevate bridge manning in confined waters or poor electronic conditions;
- plan with crew welfare in mind, keeping rest hours protected during congestion delays;
- verify with local agents the status of possible restrictions or additional requirements prior to port calls.

Where it is possible to safely do so, vessels should leave the areas affected by military operations as soon as practicable.