

03063.GEN - Regulatory update - security and the ISPS code



03063.GEN - October, 2003

The U.S. Coast Guard has recently sent out a letter officially stating that in accordance with the Maritime Transportation and Security Act (MTSA) regulations, owners/operators of foreign vessels entering the United States, and subject to SOLAS and the ISPS Code, are not required to submit Vessel Security Plans to the U.S. Coast Guard for approval. It further states that foreign vessels do not have to prepare, or submit for approval, a U.S. Annex to the Vessel Security Plan.

Company Security Officers (CSO)

Owners/operators of Vanuatu vessels who are required to submit information to Vanuatu concerning their Company Security Officer (CSO) under SOLAS and the ISPS Code, are encouraged to begin to do so as soon as possible. Submission can be made by either fax, e-mail or post mail and should include the information specified in the attached Annex (back of page).

Recommendations on testing and drills

It is the position of this administration that vessels perform security drills in accordance with the ISPS Code Part B Section 13.6 which states:

"...drills should be conducted at least every three months. In addition, where more than 25% of the ship's personnel has been changed, at any one time, with personnel that has not previously participated in any drill on that ship, within the last 3 months, a drill should be conducted within one week of the change."

Testing of the Ship Security Alert System is also recommend to be done at this time if the unit is in fact equipped with a "test mode" function.

Should you have any questions, please contact this office.

Best Regards,

Donald J. Sheetz
Executive Vice President