



Virgin Islands Shipping Registry

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New Requirements for Security Training for Shipboard Personnel

Notice to all ship owners, crewing agents, masters, officers, seafarers and other shipboard personnel

Summary

The STCW Convention and Code as amended by the Manila amendments (2010) contains new requirements regarding security training. This MIN clarifies how to obtain the following Certification:

- Security related familiarization;
- Proficiency in security awareness; and
- Proficiency in designated security duties.

New requirements for security training for shipboard personnel

Under the terms of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention, all personnel on ISPS code-applicable vessels (this includes passenger vessels plying between BVI and the USVI) must be trained in the following:

- security-related familiarization
- Proficiency in security awareness
- Proficiency in designated security duties

The enforcement date for this requirement is 1st January 2015. The USCG has allowed a period of 6 months for relevant seafarers to obtain this training and will be enforcing this requirement on ships visiting the US from 1 July 2015. For the sake of consistency, in a meeting with the USCG, the Virgin Islands Shipping Registry has agreed to a similar approach for enforcement.

Note: all ship security officers, as is normal, need to hold a STCW Ship's Security Officer (SSO) certificate and they will not be required to undertake further security training.

Security-related familiarization training: This must be delivered to all crew members by the SSO, or other equally qualified person, before individuals are assigned shipboard duties and within 24 hours of joining a ship. The training should emphasize ship-specific security issues and provide guidance for the seafarer to:

- report a security incident, including a piracy or armed robbery threat or attack
- know the procedures to follow when they recognize a security threat
- take part in security-related emergency and contingency procedures

Documentary evidence must be retained by the ship to show that this training has been completed. The training can be incorporated into the ship's safety familiarization program and use the existing method of recording the delivery of training.

Proficiency in security awareness: All crew members must receive this training through an approved training center. The training must meet the requirements of Section A-VI/6 paragraph 4 of the amended STCW code, and it leads to a STCW Certificate of Proficiency. This training need only be completed once in a seafarer's career; there is no requirement for refreshment or revalidation.

Proficiency in designated security duties: This training applies to those seafarers who have designated duties under the ship's security plan. As with the previous proficiency training, it must be provided by an approved training centre, and is only required once in a seafarer's career. The training must meet the requirements of Section A-VI paragraphs 6-8 of the amended STCW code, and leads to a STCW Certificate of Proficiency.

VISR policy: For the Proficiency in security awareness and proficiency in designated security duties, there is a 'grandfather clause' which allows seafarers with relevant sea service and experience prior to 1 January 2015 to be issued with a certificate of proficiency without undertaking further training.

Until 1st July 2015, the VISR may issue Certificates of Service to holders of BVI Certificates of Competency and/or BVI Ratings working on BVI registered ships for:

- Proficiency in security awareness to seafarers who have documentary evidence of at least six months sea service in any capacity in the 5 years prior to 1st January 2015; and
- Proficiency in designated security duties to seafarers who have documentary evidence of at least six months sea service which has included security duties in the 5 years prior to 1st January 2014.

The documentary evidence of sea service may take the form of discharge book entries or sea service testimonials. There must be a separate statement, on company headed paper, signed, by the Master or other Company Official, stating that the sea service included designated security duties. These forms can be obtained from the front desk at the VISR.

Training providers: The HLSCC Centre for Maritime Studies has advised the VISR that they are not in a position to offer this course at least until 1 July 2015. The nearest provider of this course is the Captains School, in the USVI. The VISR accept the Security Training Certificates issued by the Captains School for service on board BVI registered vessels.

**Director,
Virgin Islands Shipping Registry
Road Town, Tortola
British Virgin Islands.
5th January 2015**