

Management System

FLEET DIRECTIVE

FD2404

18 January 2024

Ship Security

This Fleet Directive is issued as an interim amendment to MSMS until a new version is released. The instructions contained in this Directive are to be considered integral parts of MSMS with immediate effect and the Directive remains valid until formally withdrawn.

The recent external audits have identified weaknesses in the implementation of ship security requirements. For a vessel trading worldwide, robust security procedures and good knowledge of these by the relevant people are vital to ensuring the safety of all onboard. With that in mind a new section will be added to the next revision of MSMS, however the following procedures come into force immediately:

1. Why is Ship Security Important?

As long as ships sail the worlds oceans carrying valuable cargoes and crews, and as long as geopolitical tensions exist, there will always exist some security risk to merchant vessels. It is important to have effective procedures in place to ensure that ship security is considered in every operation and that measures are put in place when required.

In recent months the security threat to merchant shipping has grown, and the effectiveness of the ships procedures could mean the difference between getting safely to your next port or being boarded.

2. Who is Responsible for Ship Security

While the Master and Ship Security Officer (SSO) have operational responsibility for ship security, supported by the Company Security Officer (CSO) – at the end of the day they cannot make the ship secure by themselves. Everyone on the ship is responsible for ship security, by following these procedures and the instructions of the Master, SSO and CSO.

3. How is Ship Security Managed?

The ship has been issued a Ship Security Plan. This is a restricted document that must be kept in the locked custody of the Master. Only the Master and SSO (onboard) and CSO (ashore) have the right to access all parts of this document and all three must be familiar with its contents.

The Ship Security Plan is specific to the vessel and implements measures to keep the ship secure from the risks identified during an earlier Ship Security Assessment. It sets out what systems and equipment is onboard, what training and drills are required and importantly what is do be done when entering areas with a higher security risk.

The Ship Security Plan must be reviewed at least annually by the SSO and the Master. The results of that review are to be sent to the CSO, who must respond within seven days.

4. What Action Must Crew Members Take?

Crew are required to follow the security instructions of the SSO and the Master at all times. It is important to remember that you may not have all the information that the SSO does, and as a result may not be able to recognize why a particular situation is high or higher risk.

In addition, crew are to report any suspicious or security related events to the SSO, Master or the Duty Officer.

5. Handling Security Reports

If a Duty Officer receives a security report, they must inform the SSO.

When receiving such a report, the SSO must, together with the Master, assess the potential risk and act in accordance with the SSP. They are strongly encouraged to seek support from the CSO before acting, but should not hesitate to act immediately if the CSO cannot be reached.

The SSO must record all security reports in SMMS, which are then to be handled in the same way as HSE Events.

6. Use of External Security Personnel

The Company may engage external security personnel provided this is permitted by the Flag State rules. Having external security personnel onboard does not relieve the SSO or the Master of their duties and responsibilities with respect to security.

This Fleet Directive takes effect immediately.

Please ensure this directive is shared widely, and all take the time to become familiar with the above change(s). All Officers must initial the box below to confirm they have read and understood this Directive.

Ian McIntosh-Oakley

Managing Director

Valid without signature

Confirmation of receipt and understanding:

	Master	Ch. Off.	OOW D	OOW D	Ch. Eng.	2. Eng.	OOW E	OOW E	ETO
Initial									
Name									
Date									