



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF  
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING  
34th session  
Agenda item 9

STW 34/9/3  
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## MEASURES TO ENHANCE MARITIME SECURITY

### Training for Ship Security Officers

#### Submitted by the International Shipping Federation (ISF)

#### SUMMARY

**Executive summary:** ISF has some general comments regarding the training of Ship Security Officers required by the new ISPS Code, and suggests a possible structure for any IMO Model Course that might be developed by the Sub-Committee.

**Action to be taken:** See paragraph 8

**Related documents:** ISPS Code

1 The recently adopted International Code for the Security of Ships and Port Facilities (ISPS Code) includes a new requirement for a Ship Security Officer (SSO) to be designated on every ship of 500 GT or above on international voyages. It is understood that the Sub-Committee will be considering training requirements, including the possible development of an IMO Model Course for the training of Ship Security Officers.

2 ISF can support the development of a Model Course provided that any new burdens placed on employers, and the seafarers they employ, can be demonstrated to bring genuine improvements to security. However, the aim should be to inculcate greater awareness of security amongst relevant seafarers, not to create a new profession.

3 It is assumed that on many ships the responsibilities of the SSO will be allocated to STCW Management Level Deck Officers, specifically, perhaps, the chief officer. However, ISF has concluded that it should be possible for companies to assign this new role to other senior officers on board individual ships, given the variety of ship types, sizes and trades.

4 ISF also believes that it will be desirable for competence in this new role to be obtained in-service, rather than through over-detailed shore based courses, since the principal responsibility of the SSO will be to implement the ship security plan required by the ISPS Code. For example, while the Ship Security Officer should be able to implement measures to prevent weapons and dangerous substances etc. from being taken on board, it should **not** be necessary for him or her to have an *over-detailed* knowledge of different weapons and dangerous substances and devices. The SSO should remain a seafarer, rather than becoming a security professional.

5 ISF also suggests that training requirements for the Ship Security Officer should be developed quite separately from any training requirements necessary for the Company Security Officer that may be required by the ISPS Code.

6 To assist the work of the Sub-Committee, the ISF Manning and Training Committee, comprising expert representatives of national shipowners' associations, has analysed the mandatory requirements of Part A of the ISPS Code concerning the role and training of Ship Security Officers. The relevant parts of the ISPS Code appear to be:

- Section 2 (Definitions)
- Section 7 (Ship Security),
- Section 9 (Ship Security Plan)
- Section 10 (Records)
- Section 12 (Ship Security Officer) and
- Section 13 (Training and Drills).

7 ISF has also attempted to identify the competences that needed to be addressed by the proposed IMO Model Course, as well as the knowledge, understanding and proficiency that would appear to be required to comply with the ISPS Code. This attempt to produce a structure for a possible Model Course is attached as an annex.

#### **Action requested of the Sub-Committee**

8 The Sub-Committee is invited to take account of the above comments, and the suggested structure, attached as an annex, when considering the development of an IMO Model Course for Ship Security Officers.

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## ANNEX

### **PROPOSED STRUCTURE FOR POSSIBLE IMO MODEL COURSE FOR TRAINING OF SHIP SECURITY OFFICERS**

**Competence: Undertake regular inspections of the ship to ensure appropriate security measures are maintained**

*Knowledge, understanding and proficiency*

Requirements for monitoring restricted areas to ensure that only authorised persons have access

Mechanisms for controlling access to the ship, including pass systems

Monitoring deck areas and areas surrounding ship

Controlling the embarkation of persons and their effects

Co-ordinating the security aspects of the handling of cargo and ship's stores with other personnel and relevant port facility officers

**Competence: Maintaining and supervising the implementation of the ship security plan, including any amendments to the plan**

*Knowledge, understanding and proficiency*

Measures to prevent weapons, dangerous substances and devices for use against people, ships or ports, from being carried on board the ship

Identification of the restricted areas, and measures for the prevention of unauthorised access to the ship and restricted areas on board

Procedures for responding to security threats or breaches of security, including provisions for maintaining critical operations of the ship/port interface

Procedures for evacuation

Duties of ship board personnel assigned security responsibilities

Proposing modifications to the ship security plan, and procedures for conducting internal audits of security activities specified in the plan

**Competence: Enhancing security awareness and vigilance on board, and ensuring that adequate training has been provided to shipboard personnel**

*Knowledge, understanding and proficiency*

Co-ordination of training, exercises and drills associated with the ship security plan

Ensuring that shipboard personnel understand their security responsibilities in order to perform assigned duties

**Competence: Ensuring the implementation of the ship security plan in co-ordination with the company security officer and the relevant port facility security officer**

*Knowledge, understanding and proficiency*

Maintenance of records concerning training, drills and exercises, security incidents, reports of breaches in security and changes in security level

Reporting to the Company Security Officer any deficiencies and non-conformities identified during internal audits, periodic reviews, and security inspections

Procedures for responding to any security instructions that governments may give relating to the security level in force

Proposing modifications to the ship security plan

**Competence: Ensuring that security equipment is properly operated tested and calibrated**

*Knowledge, understanding and proficiency*

Procedures to ensure inspection, testing, calibration and maintenance of any security equipment provided on board

Identification of locations where security alert system activation points are fitted

Procedures, instructions and guidance on the use of the ship security alert system, including testing, activation, deactivation and resetting

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