

A-18: INTERNATIONAL SHIP AND PORT FACILITY SECURITY CODE

Name of the convention: International Ship and Port Facility Security Code

Acronym or short name: ISPS Code

International organisation in charge of it: International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Summary description (in plain language): This code gives effect to requirements of chapter XI-2 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended.

The ISPS Code is a comprehensive, mandatory, security regime for international shipping and port operations. It aims to provide a standardised, consistent framework for evaluating risk, enabling governments to ensure that security measures are implemented in proportion to the potential risk to security, which may vary over time.

The Code aims, among other things, to establish an international framework for co-operation between Contracting Governments, Government agencies, local administrations and the shipping and port industries to detect security threats and take preventive measures against security incidents affecting ships or port facilities used in international trade and to establish relevant roles and responsibilities at the national and international level. These objectives are to be achieved by the designation of appropriate personnel on each ship, in each port facility and in each ship owning company to make assessments and to put into effect the security plans that will be approved for each ship and port facility. The Code is divided into two parts: The Code contains detailed security-related requirements for Governments, port authorities and shipping companies in a mandatory section (Part A), together with a series of guidelines about how to meet these requirements in a second, non-mandatory section (Part B).

In order to comply with the regulations, ships will be subject to a system of survey, verification, certification and control to ensure that their security measures are implemented. Requirements include: ship security assessments, ship security plans, ship security officers, company security officers and certain onboard equipment.

For port facilities, the requirements include: port facility security assessments and plans, port facility security officers and certain security equipment.

Both ships and port facilities will also need to: monitor and control access, monitor the activities of people and cargo and ensure that security communications are readily available.

For both ships and port facilities compliance with the requirements involves the production of a security plan that details the measures at various security levels.

Date of first approval: december 2002

Date of coming into force: 1 july 2004

Dates of revision: no

Reasons of revisions: no

Stakes for ports: Contracting Governments are entitled to exercise the right to inspect ships: ships have to carry an international ship security certificate (ISSC) indicating that they comply with the requirements of SOLAS (chapter IX-2) and part A of the ISPS Code. When a ship is at a port or is proceeding to a port of Contracting Government, the Contracting Government "Port State Authority" has the right to exercise control and compliance measures with respect to that ship. The ship is subjected to Port State Control inspections will not normally extend to examination of the ship security plan itself except in specific circumstances.

The ship may also be subjected to additional control measures if the contracting Government exercising the control and compliance measures has reason to believe that the security of the ship has, or the port facilities it has served, have been compromised.

The "Port State Authorities" may request the provision of information regarding the ship, passengers and ship's personnel prior to the ship's entry into port. There may be circumstances in which entry into port could be denied.

Links with other conventions: [SOLAS](#) :

The Conference adopted a series of Amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention, aimed at enhancing maritime security on board ships and at ship/port interface areas. Among other things, these amendments create a new SOLAS chapter dealing specifically with maritime security, which in turn contains the mandatory requirement for ships to comply with the ISPS Code.

Key-words: Security, port facilities

Internet hyperlink with other website:

<http://www.imo.org/>

<http://www.comitemaritime.org/>, <http://www.cdlive.ir.org/>