

**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security**

**United States
Coast Guard**



Commanding Officer
U.S. Coast Guard
Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles

150 Marine Street, Box 4
Lake Charles, LA 70601-5680
Phone: (337) 433-3765
Fax: (337) 437-7263

Date: _____

Name and Address
of Owner and Operator

Master _____:

On July 1, 2004, the provisions of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code and the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) will enter into force for certain passenger vessels, freight vessels, Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU's), and certain other types of vessels. At the same time, the owners or other companies responsible for the ship's operation will be required to have implemented a Security Plan on board their ships that have been certified by their flag administration or an organization authorized to act on their behalf. Evidence of compliance with the ISPS Code will be in the form of an International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) issued to the company responsible for the ship's operation certifying that the company's Security Plan has been properly implemented on board.

During the period from January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004, the Coast Guard is conducting an ISPS Compliance Pre-enforcement Campaign for the benefit of the regulated vessel community. In April, we intend to begin checking for compliance with the ISPS Code and advising of instances of non-compliance. No enforcement actions will be taken, but vessels able to demonstrate compliance will be less likely to experience compliance verification delays after July 1, 2004.

Currently, your vessel does not comply with the provisions of the ISPS Code and MTSA. Be advised, that if your vessel attempts to enter a U.S. port after July 1, 2004, without being in full compliance with the ISPS code, it may be denied entry to this and all other U.S. ports, and/or other control actions may be taken. If the vessel is found in port without being in compliance, it may be expelled from port until the U.S. Coast Guard receives evidence of compliance with the ISPS Code. In addition, civil penalty action may be initiated against the owner or operator of your vessel and your flag administration may be notified.

Sincerely,

M. J. McCADDEN, LCDR, USCG
COMMANDING OFFICER