

Marine Safety Office Houston-Galveston
Marine Safety Unit Galveston
Vessel Traffic Service Houston

Marine Safety Information Bulletin 13-04
International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) Enforcement for Vessels on
July 1, 2004 and Thereafter

June 28, 2004

July 1, 2004 marks the implementation date for the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS). The U.S. Coast Guard will begin full enforcement of the code on all applicable vessels entering U. S. ports on or after that date. To assist in managing expectations, the following information is provided for some commonly asked questions regarding what will and will not be considered acceptable on July 1, 2004.

Faxed Copies of International Ship Security Certificates (ISSCs): Faxed copies will **not** be accepted as proof of compliance with the ISPS code, and will be noted as discrepancies for potential Port State Control action if found during an ISPS verification exam. However, if the original certificate is to be delivered to the vessel in port, the agent, or whoever receives the certificate, may bring it to our office for visual verification to establish compliance prior to the vessel's arrival in port.

Interim ISSC's: Interim ISSC's issued before July 1, 2004 for reasons other than those authorized under the ISPS Code Part A, 19.4 will not be accepted on July 1, 2004 or after. Only short term and full term ISSC's will be accepted for documentation of compliance with the ISPS Code.

Vessels already in Port without an ISSC on July 1, 2004: Vessels already in port that made arrangements prior to 01 July 2004 to have an ISSC issued during their port stay will be allowed to remain in port and no enforcement action will be initiated. Vessels in port that have **not** made arrangements prior 01 July 2004 to have an ISSC issued will be expelled from port and restricted from entering any other U. S. port until a valid ISSC has been issued. This will be noted on the vessel's history for future vessel screening considerations.

Vessels bound for the U. S. without an ISSC on July 1, 2004: Vessels requesting entry to a U. S. port on or after July 1, 2004 without an ISSC will be denied authorization to enter port until an ISSC has been issued. If arrangements for an ISSC have been made, the ISSC must be issued offshore prior to port entry.

Conditions that may lead to expulsion from port or denial of entry:

- ◆ Lack of Approved Ship Security Plan or ISSC
- ◆ Lack of Assigned Ship Security Officer
- ◆ Ship Security Officer cannot display acceptable level of competency regarding ship security.
- ◆ Ship Security Plan procedures have not been properly implemented on the ship.

Providing information on ISSC status: Another reminder that we are screening NOA's for information on ISSC's. Please use the latest form available at the NVMC website: <http://www.nvmc.uscg.gov/download.html> It provides information on the ISSC that will be used to determine who is cleared for entry into port. Although we will try to make follow-up calls to agents to get that information, delays to port entry may be experienced if personnel do not have time to make those additional inquiries.

Notices of Arrival: Properly completed and submitted NOA's will greatly assist in reducing delays. Current enforcement stance is extremely strict for required information and timelines and has provided no provisions for any latitude.

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