



U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Louisville Information Bulletin



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SECURITY MEASURES FOR DOMESTIC PASSENGER VESSELS

Due to the recent terrorist attacks, there is increased concern about the level of security on domestic passenger vessels. I view the current heightened terrorist threat conditions as serious and warranting a careful evaluation of the physical security of all passenger vessels. I urge you to immediately assess and improve, as needed, your security and protective measures. Enclosure (1) lists example security measures that may be applicable to your operations.

The enclosed recommendations are provided for your information and should not be construed as an all-inclusive list of security measures that are required for your operations. Per Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 6.19-1, the primary responsibility for the protection and security of vessels rests with the master, owner, operator or agent of that vessel.

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RECOMMENDED SECURITY PRACTICES FOR PASSENGER VESSELS

The following precautions are provided as guidance for your consideration in implementing your own passenger vessel security measures:

1. Designate an individual or group within your organization to take charge of security issues for your vessel(s).
2. Develop a security plan that accounts for potential threats, outlines preventative measures, and provides action plans in the event of a threat or actual emergency.
3. Consider hiring (additional) security personnel for your facilities and vessels.
4. Coordinate and develop a close working relation with local law enforcement agencies. Invite them to visit your facilities and inform your personnel on how to recognize suspicious activity and the appropriate actions to take.
5. Restrict or prohibit passenger access to operational areas including the pilothouse and machinery spaces. Consider locking these spaces to prevent unauthorized entry.
6. Develop coded signals and responses for the crew to report suspicious activity without alarming passengers.
7. Report suspicious activity to the Coast Guard or local law enforcement agencies.
8. Verify the identity of all persons boarding the vessel for business purposes including crew, contractors, vendors, other employees, etc. Use positive forms of identification (such as photo ID cards) before authorizing passengers access to your vessels.
9. Request passengers to open backpacks, coolers, briefcases, purses and other luggage/packages/containers for inspection prior to boarding the vessel.
10. Modify your safety announcement to include security information to passengers. Instruct passengers to keep personal belongings in their control at all times and do not accept packages, parcels, or bags from strangers.
11. Post signs explaining the same security announcement outlined above.
12. Direct crewmembers to make vessel sweeps for suspicious or unclaimed items.