



Port Community Information Bulletin # 02-04
Marine Safety Office (813) 228-2193
Tampa, Florida

Effective Date: January 27, 2004
Expiration Date: Until Cancelled

***International Ship and Port Facility Security Code
Maritime Transportation Security Act***

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, and other types of vessels. The owners or other companies responsible for the ship's operation will be required to have implemented a Security Plan on board their ships certified by their flag administration or an organization authorized to act on their behalf. A valid International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) issued to the company responsible for the ship's operation is evidence of compliance with the ISPS Code. This certificate verifies that the company's Security Plan is 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. The first phase of this program will be from January through March in which we will begin to verify compliance by checking for the presence of the ISSC and the vessel's Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR). If the vessel does not possess these certificates, the Master shall be issued an informational letter indicating that vessels able to demonstrate compliance will be less likely to experience compliance verification delays after July 1, 2004.

In the second phase from April through June, any vessel providing Notice of Arrival (NOA) information indicating full compliance will undergo a complete ISPS/MTSA compliance examination per NVIC 06-03 (available on line at www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nvic). If the vessel has deficiencies, enforcement action will not be taken, however the Master will be notified of any deficiencies with an informational letter. If the exam confirms the vessel is in compliance with the ISPS code, the Master will be issued a letter indicating that the vessel may not be targeted as a priority for an ISPS compliance examination at its first U.S. port call on or after July 1, 2004.

Contact the Port State Control branch at 813-228-2193, X8310 with any issues or questions.

J.M. FARLEY
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port