

## **MTSA Regulations found at 33 CFR Subchapter H**

### **#38-04 JUN 30, 2004---POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL FAQ**

**Q.** What are the security requirements for a vessel that is considering becoming an excursion vessel?

**Ans.** Vessels that are certificated to carry 150 passengers or less and request permission to carry an excursion party of more than 150 passengers will be required to submit a security plan with the request for an Excursion Permit. Vessel owners or operators shall make early contact with the COTP in order to understand the submission and approval timelines as well as coordinate Coast Guard services such as vessel inspections, instructions for conducting security assessments, or guides for writing security plans.

At a minimum, the following measures must be addressed in the security plan, per NVIC 04-03 Ch-1:

- Trained/qualified Vessel Security Officer (VSO)
- Effective means of communication
- Sufficient security measures for access control
- Sufficient security measures for restricted areas
- Sufficient security measures for handling cargo
- Sufficient security measures for delivery of vessel stores/bunkers
- Sufficient security measures for monitoring
- Sufficient procedures for completing a Declaration of Security (DOS) and performing the vessel/vessel interface

When satisfied that the vessel's safety and security needs are properly outlined, the COTP may approve the Excursion Permit. 46 CFR 2.01-45 requires Permits to Carry Excursion Party to state the period during which the excursion may be made. In cases where this policy is exercised, an owner is limited to requesting one excursion every four months.

**Note:** For further guidance, a facility owner/operator should contact their local Captain of the Port (COTP/FMSC).