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Syllabus covers the requirements of the STCW Code as amended Chapter VI, Section A-VI/5. Those who successfully complete this course should be able to undertake the duties and responsibilities of a designated Vessel Security Officer as defined in 33 CFR Part 104, which include, but are not limited to: Regularly inspecting the vessel to ensure that security measures are maintained; Ensuring the coordinated implementation of the VSP with the CSO and the relevant Facility... Description Class Requirements Training Certificate of Completion This syllabus covers the requirements of the STCW Code as amended Chapter VI, Section A-VI/5. Those who successfully complete this course should be able to undertake the duties and responsibilities of a designated Vessel Security Officer as defined in 33 CFR Part 104, which include, but are not limited to: Regularly inspecting the vessel to ensure that security measures are maintained; Ensuring the coordinated implementation of the VSP with the CSO and the relevant Facility... The Vessel Security Officer (VSO) is responsible for development, approval, implementation, and maintenance of the Ship Security Plan (SSP). He arranges audits and verification of the SSP by the administration or Recognized Security Organization (RSO), and correction of any deficiencies. He ensures adequate training of personnel responsible for the security of the ship. He shall ensure effective cooperation between the SSO and PFSO. The company shall give adequate support to the CSO master and SSO for compliance with the ISPS Code. Ships security at level 1 includes controlling access to the ship and embarkation of persons monitoring restricted area, deck areas and area surrounding the ship, supervising loading of cargo and stores, and ensuring that the security communication is readily available. These measures are maintained at all times. At level 2 additional measures as specified in the SSP are maintained for a period of time of heightened risks. At level 3 further protective measures as specified in the SSP are maintained for limited period of time when a security incident is probable or imminent. The CSO ensures that the ship security is assessed by a RSO. The assessment is documented, reviewed, accepted, and retained by the company. Port Facility Security Plan (PFSP) is approved by the administration. The security at level 1 includes controlling access to the port facility and restricted areas, monitoring berthing and anchoring areas, supervising handling of cargo and ship's stores, and ensuring that security communication is readily available. Additional measures as specified in the PFSP are maintained at the level 2 for a period of heightened risks, and level 3 when the security incident is probable or imminent. Port facility security assessments are carried out by the RSO. It is reviewed and approved by the administration. The assessment includes identification of important assets and infrastructure, possible threats, security measures, effectiveness and weaknesses in the infrastructure, policies and procedures. The PFSP is prepared by the RSO and approved by the administration. It includes measures to prevent unauthorized carriage of weapons or dangerous substance, measures to prevent unauthorized access to port or ships or restricted areas, procedures for shore leave of crew, crew changes, and access by visitors. The plan is protected from unauthorized access or disclosure. The administration decides which port facilities should have a security officer. A PFSO is designated to one or more port facilities. He is responsible for security assessments and training of security personnel. He shall ensure proper operation, testing, and maintenance of security equipment and coordination with the CSO, SSO, and Security services. The master shall not be constrained by the company or any other person from making any decision in the interest of safety and security of the ship. In the event of any conflict between safety and security requirements, the master shall give effect to the safety requirements and implement temporary security measures. Flags and ports state administration shall be informed so that the conflict can be resolved and the possibility of recurrence shall be minimized. When the master of a ship intends to enter a foreign port, he shall inform the concerned authority details of the ISPS certificate, security levels at which the ship is currently operating, and levels maintained during last ten calls. The authority may require inspection of the ship and rectification of non-compliance. Image Credits/Wikipedia Images - Vessel Security Officer Skip to content If you have comments or suggestions on how to improve the www.ecfr.gov website or have questions about using www.ecfr.gov, please choose the "Website Feedback" button below. If you would like to comment on the current content, please use the "Content Feedback" button below for instructions on contacting the issuing agency The United States Coast Guard (USCG), STCW Vessel Security Officer (VSO) is a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) for individuals who perform the duties and responsibilities defined in 33 CFR § 104.215(D)(iv), STCW Code Chapter VI, section A-VI/5 and the ISPS Code. VSO's must have knowledge and training in basic vessel layout and construction, maintaining and supervising the implementation of a vessel security plan, ship Security Strategies and assessments, and familiarity with key definitions, terminology, and operational practices employed in the maritime industry to name a few. STCW and USCG CFR regulations require all personnel to have a security endorsement on their credential commensurate with their respective duties onboard as of January 1st, 2014. These endorsements are hierarchical with VSO as the highest level. Mariners meeting qualification for VSO are also endorsed with Vessel Personnel with Designated Security Duties (VPDSD) and Security Awareness (SA). USCG VSO General Requirements Must be at least Age 18 Medical Certificate Mariners must hold a national endorsement as OS Wiper, SD (FH) or higher USCG Subchapter I, except commercial fishing vessels inspected under 46 CFR part 105 Vessel subject to 46 CFR chapter 1, subchapter I Passenger vessel subject to 46 CFR part 1, subchapter H Passenger vessel subject to 46 CFR part 1, subchapter B Passenger vessel subject to 46 CFR part 1, subchapter I, that is engaged on an international voyage Tank ship subject to 46 CFR chapter 1, subchapter D or O Towing vessel greater than eight meters in registered length that is engaged in towing a barge or barges subject to this part, except a towing vessel that - Temporarily assists another vessel engaged in towing a barge or barges subject to this part; Shifts a barge or barges subject to this part; Shifts a barge or barges subject to this part at a facility or within a fleet facility; Assists sections of a tow through a lock; or Provides emergency assistance. While not subject to 33 CFR 104.105, service on the following vessels, if 100 GRT or more may be used - MSC non-commissioned vessels (designated UNSN), USACE vessels; OR NOAA vessels No documented evidence of vessel operations/knowledge is required when the above 360 days of sea service on the listed vessels is met Option 2 180 days of approved service on any of the vessels listed under Option 1 above, AND Provide evidence of knowledge on agency, company or vessel record in the following areas: Basic vessel layout and construction Shipboard organization Shipboard safety Protection of the marine environment Familiarity with key definitions, terminology, and operational practices employed in the maritime industry. Option 3 The holder of any endorsement valid for service on vessels more than 100 GRT, 180 day service on any of the vessels listed under Option 1 above. NO documented evidence of vessel operations/knowledge is required when the above 180 days of sea service on the listed vessels is met. Military Service - MILITARY SERVICE - LIMITED TO: Individuals who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserve, and whose military service was documented and calculated in accordance with 46 CFR 10.232. The remaining 30 days or more remaining required service must be on any vessel(s) listed under Option 1. When using any military service and if any officer endorsement valid for service on vessels more than 100 GRT is NOT HELD, must also provide evidence of knowledge via agency, company or vessel letterhead in the following areas: Basic vessel layout and construction Shipboard organization Shipboard safety Protection of the marine environment Familiarity with key definitions, terminology, and operational practices employed in the maritime industry Approved Training CG Accepted or Approved VSO Course Optional: Basic Training or Continued Competency not required (if provided endorses with VII/I and list as capacity - if not provided do not endorse) Disclaimer: For general information purpose - please check with USCG for the latest requirements and accurate info LAST UPDATED ON Sep 24, 2023 A Ship Security Officer (SSO)/Vessel Security Officer is designated on each ship. 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