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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 maintenance and supervision of the implementation of the VSP, and any amendments to the VSP, and any amendments to the VSP, and any amendments to the VSP; Ensuring the coordination and handling of cargo and vessel stores with other shipboard personnel and with relevant Port Facility Security Officers; Proposing modifications to the VSP to the Company
Security Officer (CSO); Ensuring that any problems identified during audits or inspections or periodic reviews are reported to the CSO, and promptly implement any corrective actions; Ensuring that any problems identified during audits or inspections or periodic reviews are reported to the CSO, and promptly implement any corrective actions; Ensuring that any problems identified during audits or inspections or periodic reviews are reported to the CSO, and promptly implement any corrective actions; Ensuring that any problems identified during audits or inspections or periodic reviews are reported to the CSO, and promptly implement any corrective actions; Ensuring adequate security available and recording of all
security incidents; Ensuring the coordinated implementation of the VSP with the CSO and the relevant Facility... Description Class Requirements Training Certificate of 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 maintenance and supervision of the implementation of the VSP, and any amendments to the VSP; Ensuring the coordination
and handling of cargo and vessel stores with other shipboard personnel and with relevant Port Facility Security Officers; Proposing modifications to the VSP to the Company Security Officer (CSO); Ensuring that any problems identified during audits or inspections or periodic reviews are reported to the CSO, and promptly implement any corrective
actions; Ensuring security awareness and vigilance on board the vessel; Ensuring the coordinated implementation of the VSP with the CSO and the relevant Facility Security Officer, when applicable; Ensuring security equipment is
properly operated, tested, calibrated, and maintained; Ensuring consistency between security requirements and the proper treatment of vessel personnel affected by those requirements; and Ensuring TWIC programs are in place and implemented appropriately. Any applicant who has successfully completed your Vessel Security Officer (MARINS-573)
course will satisfy: The requirements of 46 CFR 11.337(a) for an STCW endorsement as Vessel Security Officer; AND The Vessel Security Officer standards of competence required by STCW Code Section A-VI/5 and Table A-VI/5, as amended 2010, meeting the National Assessment Guidelines from NVIC 21-14(Ch-1). Courses VESSEL SECURITY
OFFICER Location CA, San Diego Start Date Jul 14 2025 End Date Jul 15 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location WA, Edmonds Start Date Jul 28 2025 End Date Oct 20 2025 End Date Oct 21 2025 Cost
$550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER 2025-10-27 Location WA, Edmonds Start Date Oct 27 2025 End Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 27 2025 End Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 27 2025 End Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 27 2025 End Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 27 2025 End Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Courses VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Course VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newport Beach Start Date Oct 28 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart Course VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER Location CA, Newp
VA, Norfolk Start Date Nov 13 2025 End Date Nov 14 2025 Cost $550 Add To Cart A Ship Security Officer (SSO)/Vessel Security Officer is designated on each ship. He is responsible for implementation of the Ship's Security Officer is designated on each ship.
(CSO) and Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO), and ensuring that security equipment is properly operated, tested, calibrated, and maintained. SOLAS deals with "Special Measures to Enhance Maritime Security of Ships and Port Facilities (ISPS). This
ISPS code is applicable to all ships on international voyages, except cargo ships of less than 500 GT, and port facilities serving ships on international voyages. Administration of the contracting government designates a competent authority that is responsible for the maritime security within and in the vicinity of its territory. The administration may
designate a Recognized Security Organization (RSO) for security plans and issues certificates after reviewing the reports of verification of the systems. The administration approves the security plans and issues certificates after reviewing the reports of verification of the systems.
a Ship Security Alert System for transmitting the alert to the shore based authority, designated by the administration-named Vessel Security Officer. The alert identifies the ship, its location, and indicates that the security of the Master,
SSO, and deputy SSO. It operates through the ship's radio system or independent radio system or independent radio system or independent radio system should continue the alert until deactivated and reset. It does not send the alert
to other ships or raise any alarm on the ship itself. The administration establishes security Officer (SSO)/Vessel Security Officer and the Port Facility
Security Officer (PFSO) specifying how the security requirements are shared between them. The shipping company shall designate a Company Security Officer (CSO) for one or more ships. The CSO is responsible for development, approval, implementation, and maintenance of the Ship Security Plan (SSP). He arranges audits and verification of the
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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 cargos 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,
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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
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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 is currently operating.
(SSO)/Vessel Security Officer is designated on each ship. He is responsible for implementation of the Ship's Security Plan (SSP), training of shipboard personal, reporting security Officer (PFSO), and ensuring that security equipment is properly operated,
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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 Awareness (SA). USCG VSO General Requirements Must have U.S. Citizenship Must be at least Age 18 Medical Certificate Mariners must hold a national endorsement as OS Wiper, SD (FH) or higher USCG
Vessel Security Officer (VSO) Requirements Sea Service Requirements Sea Service on any vessel subject to 104.105 which are listed here: MODU, Cargo, or passenger vessel subject to 104.105 which are listed here: MODU, Cargo, or passenger vessel subject to 46 CFR
Subchapter I, except commercial fishing vessels inspected under 46 CFR part 105 Vessel subject to 46 CFR chapter L Passenger vessel subject to 46 CFR I, subchapter L Passenger vessel subject to 46 CFR part 105 Vessel subject to 46 CFR in subchapter L Passenger vessel subject to 46 CFR part 105 Vessel subject 105 Vessel subject 105 Vessel subjec
that is engaged on a international voyage Barge subject to 46 CFR chapter I, subchapters D or O Barge carrying certain dangerous cargo in bulk or barge that is subject to 46 CFR chapter I, subchapters 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, except a towing a barge or barges subject to this part, except a towing a barge or barges subject to this part, except a towing a barge or barges subject to this part at a facility or within a fleeting 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; OR NOAA vessels (designated USNS), USACE vessels; OR NOAA vessels No documented evidence of 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 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. Option 3 The holder of any officer endorsement valid for service on vessels more than 100 GRT: 180 days 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 under Option 1 is met and if the appropriate officer endorsement is held. Option 4 - Military Service While not subject to 33 CFR 104.105, LIMITED service of not more may be used. U.S. Coast Guard cutters U.S Army vessels; OR U. S. Navy vessels (designated USS). All military
service is documented and calculated in accordance with 46 CFR 10.232. The remaining 30 days or more remaining required 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
Basic Training or Continued Competency not required (if provided endorse with VI/1 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. He is responsible for implementation of the Ship's Security Plan (SSP), training of shipboard personal, reporting security Officer (PFSO), and ensuring that security equipment is properly operated, tested, calibrated, and
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areas and area surrounding the ship, supervising loading of cargos and stores, and ensuring that the security communication is readily available. These measures are maintained for a period of time of heightened risks. At level 3 further protective measures as specified in
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maintained during last ten calls. The authority may require inspection of the ship and rectification of non-compliance. Images - Vessel Security Code (ISPS Code) stipulates that a
vessel/ship security officer (SSO) is a person appointed by the company and the vessel's master for ensuring the Security officer (SSO) could be the master or a member of the crew designated or appointed by the vessel operator. They are responsible for each vessels' security plan and may have other responsibilities
within the vessel operator's organization. A Vessel Security Officer must have knowledge of the layout of the vessel security Plan and its requirements. Also, a non-SOLAS ship's vessel security officer should have, by training or job experience, knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel operates.
Amendments to the STCW Convention and Seafarers' Training Certificates of Proficiency to Ship Security Officer Training Course at a recognized
institution, will have met TC requirements such as sea service, age, citizenship and training. Transport Canada Marine Transportation Security Officer Requirements Part 2 - Vessels Vessel/Ship Security Officer MTSR 210 - General A vessel security officer shall be the master
or a member of the crew; may also act as the vessel security officer for a vessel without a crew if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities for each vessel operator's organization if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities for each vessel operator's organization if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities for each vessel operator's organization if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities for each vessel operator's organization if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities for each vessel operator's organization if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities for each vessel operator's organization if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities within the vessel operator's organization if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities within the vessel operator's organization if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities within the vessel operator's organization if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities within the vessel operator's organization if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities within the vessel operator's organization if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities within the vessel operator's organization if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities within the vessel operator's organization if they are able to fulfil their responsibilities within the vessel operator's organization in the vessel operator's or
responsibilities of vessel security officer; may delegate tasks required by this Part; and in the case of a towing vessel, shall coordinate its security officer remains responsible for the performance of the tasks they delegate. MTSR 211 - Vessel/Ship Security
Officer Qualifications A vessel security officer shall have knowledge and the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security officer shall have knowledge and competence that are relevant to the industry in which the vessel security of the vessel securi
those set out for a Company Security Officer in paragraphs 208(a) to (m) and (o) to (s); Crowd Management and control techniques; and the operation, testing, calibration and maintenance of security equipment and systems. Subject to subsection (6), a SOLAS ship's vessel security officer shall hold in the case of a SOLAS ship that is entitled to fly the
Canadian flag, a certificate of proficiency as a ship security officer issued under Part 8; and in the case of a SOLAS ship that is entitled to fly the flag of a foreign state, a certificate of proficiency as a ship security officer issued by the contracting government of that state. Repealed, SOR/2014-162 Repealed, SOR/2014-162 In circumstances of
exceptional necessity, when a person who holds a certificate of proficiency as a ship security officer on a SOLAS ship, the Administration may permit a member of the vessel security officer on a SOLAS ship, the Administration may permit a member of the vessel security officer on a SOLAS ship, the Administration may permit a member of the vessel security officer on a SOLAS ship, the Administration may permit a member of the vessel security officer on a SOLAS ship, the Administration may permit a member of the vessel security officer on a SOLAS ship, the Administration may permit a member of the vessel security officer on a SOLAS ship, the Administration may permit a member of the vessel security officer on a SOLAS ship, the Administration may permit a member of the vessel security officer on a SOLAS ship, the Administration may permit a member of the vessel security officer on a SOLAS ship, the Administration may permit a member of the vessel security officer on a SOLAS ship, the Administration may permit a member of the vessel security officer on a SOLAS ship, the Administration may permit a member of the vessel security of the ves
plan to serve as vessel security officer on the vessel until it arrives at the next port of call or for a period not exceeding 30 days. That member shall, as soon as possible, inform the relevant maritime authorities of the next ports of call of the
arrangements in place. Repealed, SOR/2014-162 MTSR 212 - Vessel/Ship Security Officer Responsibilities A vessel security plan, as
amended from time to time; conduct audits of the vessel security plan as required by this Part; coordinate the implementation of the vessel security plan is
identified, report it to the company security officer and implement the action necessary that is required to correct any deficiencies; ensure security plan to the company security plan to th
changes in the MARSEC level and other circumstances that might affect work conditions on board; ensure that appropriate security training or orientation is provided to the vessel's personnel in accordance with this Part; (h.1) ensure that appropriate security training or orientation that is
appropriate to their duties and the time they have spent on board the vessel, in order to be able to i. report a security incident, ii. know the procedures; (h.2) ensure that all vessel personnel with security responsibilities receive, before
carrying out any of those responsibilities, security orientation that is appropriate to their duties; report security threats and security incidents to the master, the company security officer, the appropriate law enforcement agencies, the Minister and, if applicable, the port administration, as soon as possible after they occur so that an investigation can
be conducted; report security breaches to the Minister and, if applicable, the port administration, as soon as possible after they occur; ensure that security plan; and conduct security drills and exercises. LAST UPDATED ON Jan 16, 2023 Chapter VI of the
STCW Convention has been amended with a new regulation VI/5 requiring all persons designated as Ship Security Officer (SSO) to be issued with a certificate of proficiency. Onboard all ships which are required to comply with the provisions of the ISPS Code, a Ship Security Officer (SSO) must be designated. The Ship Security officer (SSO) ensures
both the security of the ship as well as the implementation and support of the Ship Security Plan. The SSO in association with the CSO will ensure the safety awareness of the crew on board. Seafarers must have completed at least 12 months seagoing service if the candidate is signed onto a vessel on the safety awareness of the crew on board.
in a security role) allowing them to gain knowledge of ships operations to enable them to reach the training objectives as laid down in A-VI/5 of the STCW 2010 amendments, the standards of competence for ship security officers have been modified to include piracy and armed robbery. You may also read: STCW
Code Section A-VI/5 Chapter V (STCW 2010 Res 2) Standard of Competence Every candidate for a certificate of proficiency as a Ship Security Officer shall be required to demonstrate competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-VI/5. The level of knowledge of the subjects listed in column 2 of table A-VI/5.
shall be sufficient to enable the candidate to act as the designated ship security officer. Training and experience to achieve the necessary level of theoretical knowledge, understanding and proficiency shall take into account the guidance in section B-VI/5 of this Code. Every candidate for certification shall be required to provide evidence of having
achieved the required standard of competence in accordance with the methods for demonstrating competence and the criteria for evaluating competence and the criteria for evaluating competence for ship security officers STCW Table A-VI/5 of Chapter VI (STCW 2010 Res 2) Specifications of minimum standard of competence for ship security officers STCW Table A-VI/5
PDF STCW Section B-VI/5 of Chapter VI (STCW 2010) Guidance regarding training and certification for ship security officers The training should be relevant to the provisions of the English language to
correctly interpret and communicate messages relevant to ship or port facility security. In circumstances of exceptional necessity, when a person holding a certificate of proficiency as a ship security duties and responsibilities and an understanding of
the ship security plan to serve as ship security officer and to execute all duties and responsibilities of the next port(s) of call or for a period not exceeding 30 days, whichever is greater. The company should, as soon as possible, inform the competent authorities of the next port(s) of call of the arrangements in place.
relevant IMO Model Course(s) may be of assistance in the preparation of courses. MUST READ: STCW Regulation V/5 of Chapter V (STCW 2010 Res 1) Mandatory Minimum Requirements for the Issue of Certificates of Proficiency for Ship Security Officers Every candidate for a certificate of proficiency as ship security officer shall: have approved
seagoing service of not less than 12 months or appropriate seagoing service and knowledge of ship operations; and meet the standard of competence for certification of proficiency as ship security officer, set out in section A-VI/5, paragraphs 1 to 4 of the STCW Code. Administrations shall ensure that every person found qualified under the provisions
of this regulation is issued with a certificate of proficiency. Disclaimer: For general information purpose only - please check with IMO STCW Convention for the latest requirements and accurate info LAST UPDATED ON Jun 6, 2022 A Ship Security Officer (SSO)/Vessel Security Officer is designated on each ship. He is responsible for implementation of
the Ship's Security Plan (SSP), training of shipboard personal, reporting security incidents, co-coordinating with the Company Security Officer (PFSO), and ensuring that security equipment is properly operated, tested, calibrated, and maintained. SOLAS deals with "Special Measures to Enhance Maritime
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alternative source of power to operate it. When it is activated, the system should continue the alert until deactivated and reset. It does not send the alert to other ships or raise any alarm on the ship itself. The administration establishes security levels 1, 2, and 3 for the ships and port facilities under its jurisdiction, as per the risks involved. It includes
requirements for a declaration of security Officer (CSO)/Vessel Security Officer (CSO)/Vessel Security Officer (CSO) for one or more ships. The CSO is security Officer (CSO) for one or more ships. The CSO is security Officer (CSO) for one or more ships.
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 the SSP by the administration or Recognized Security Plan (SSP).
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, supervising loading of
cargos and stores, and ensuring that the security communication is readily available. These measures 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 procedures. The PFSP is prepared by the RSO and
approved by the administration. It includes measures to prevent 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 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 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 Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge required for Vessel Security Officer Course (VSO) provides the knowledge (VSO) provides the knowledge (VSO) provides the knowledge (VSO) provides (VSO) pr
duties and responsibilities with respect to the security Officer and Facility Security Officer a
and the vessel master select a qualified officer to assume the role of an SSO. In this article, we shall explore the duties of an SSO and how it ensures the security officer (SSO) is a designated officer onboard a ship tasked with ensuring the security of a
ship. The prerequisite to be a designated Ship Security Officer is a minimum of 12 months of sailing experience and a Ship Security Officer (VSO). Typically, the role of Ship Security Officer is handled by the Chief
Engineer or Chief Officer of the ship. What is the Ship Security Plan (SSP)? The Ship Security Plan (SSP) is a comprehensive ship-specific document that contains important security equipment. The management
company creates the SSP from scratch. For this purpose, the Company Security Officer (CSO) visits the ship's before or during the takeover for an initial Ship Security equipment, security loopholes, and other related data to build the ship's
SSP. Once the plan is ready, it is sent to the flag state for approval which can take anywhere from 15 days to 2 months. Once approved, the SSP serves as the reference document for all matters related to ship security. Duties of a Ship Security Officer The ISPS Code
defines the role and duties of a Ship Security Officer (SSO). It defines ten duties for an SSO. However, this is not an exhaustive list. The ten duties of a Ship Security Officer are: Regular inspections Suggesting modifications to the SSP Reporting
non-conformities and deficiencies to the Company Security Officer (CSO) Improving security incidents Coordination with CSO and Port Facility Security incidents Coordinated Coordination with CSO and Port Facility Security incidents Coordinated Coordin
Ship Security Officer must conduct regular inspections and verify all pertinent ISPS security equipment, procedures, and human interactions are satisfactory. Any deficiency must be corrected and brought to the notice of the Master and the CSO to prevent recurrence. Implementation of the Ship Security Plan (SSP) The Company Security Officer
prepares the ship security plan that contains all the procedures to be followed on a ship in the case of emergencies and threats. It is the job of the ship security plan is complied with at all security plan is complied with a security plan is complied with a security plan is complied with a security plan is all security plan is complied with a security plan is complied w
during ship operations such as cargo handling and ship stores management. The SSO is overall in charge and works with ship crew and port facility security officers for secure operations. Suggesting modifications to the SSP The SSO also reviews the SSP. Depending on the route and trading specifics, a ship's SSP may need modifications. For
instance, if a vessel regularly trades in high-risk areas, the ship may require specific security equipment for robust security. The SSO periodically evaluates the SSP to ensure it contains all the procedures and information for the most optimal security. Reporting non-conformities and deficiencies Inspections happen regularly on a ship. Some examples
are flag state inspections, class inspections, class inspections, and internal audits. The observations raised during these inspections may be related to ship security Officer (CSO) and other stakeholders of these non-conformities and deficiencies for effective rectification. Depending on the nature
of the observation, changes may sometimes be required to the SSP. Improving security awareness onboard The SSO must continuously strive to increase the level of security awareness among the crew members. All crew must be regularly monitored during duties to ensure they are highly awareness among the crew members.
includes, among other things, familiarising the crew members with the three security levels and the allowed and restricted areas for each level. Ship Crew Training In addition to verbal training, frequent security drills must be carried out to improve emergency preparedness. Security drills such as bomb searches, stowaway searches, and pirate
attacks can train the ship crew practically for enhanced performance during emergencies. Assist with Ship Security Assessment (SSA) is a periodic security review carried out by the company to ensure compliance. The objectives of a comprehensive SSA include identifying security measures, threats, and any weaknesses
within the system. The Company Security Officer (CSO) may perform the SSA himself or engage someone else to do it on his behalf. The role of the SSO is to assist the person carrying out the Ship Security. Maintenance of ship security
equipment The ship has security items onboard such as high-beam flashlights, batons, metal detectors, visitor ID cards, visitor badges, seals, barrier tapes, whistles, and maintained periodically. It is the job of the SSO to ensure that the
security equipment is in the most optimal condition at all times. Examples of Security Measures in ISPS Some measures that a ship may employ during normal as well as high-threat periods are as follows: Locking of restricted spaces to prevent unauthorized access Bag checks at the entry points to ensure no unauthorized or illegal items arrive on the
ship Stowaway checks ID checks of all personnel that board vessels Monitoring of deck areas, mooring ropes, steering gear room, and other vulnerable areas for any suspicious persons or items Security Officer Course Ship Security Officer Course Ship Security Officer Course is offered by maritime training institutes globally. These courses prepare
officers to undertake the role of a Ship Security Officer on the ship. The course duration may differ from institute to institute. In India, the minimum advised by the Flag State is two days. However, some institutes complete the course, the officers receive the ship security officer certificate. The
official course certificate is mandatory to serve as an SSO onboard ships. Frequently Asked Questions What is the difference between SSO and CSO? The SSO stays onboard the ship whereas the CSO works from the office. An SSO is only responsible for his ship's security whereas a CSO supervises the security of multiple ships. Who is the ship
security officer on board? Typically, the Chief Engineer or the Chief Officer serves as the Ship Security Officer (PFSO) is a port's version of an SSO role. The PFSO has similar duties and responsibilities at a port that an SSO has on a ship. (a) General. (1) A
VSO may perform other duties within the owner's or operator's organization, provided he or she is able to perform the duties and responsibilities required of the VSO must be an employee of the company, and the
same person may serve as the VSO for more than one unmanned vessel for which he or she is the VSO must be listed in the VSO must be listed in the VSO must be listed in the VSO of any unmanned vessel for which he or she is the VSO must be listed in the VSO must be listed in the VSO must be listed in the VSO of any unmanned vessel for which he or she is the VSO must be listed in th
must coordinate and ensure the implementation of security measures applicable to both vessels during the period of their interface. (5) The VSO must maintain a TWIC. (b) Qualifications. The VSO must have general knowledge,
through training or equivalent job experience, in the following: (1) Those items listed in § 104.210 (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this part; (2) Vessel layout; (3) The VSP and related procedures, including scenario-based response training; (4) Crowd management and control techniques; (5) Operations of security equipment and systems; (6) Testing and
calibration of security equipment and systems, and their maintenance while at sea; and (7) TWIC. (c) Certification required. After July 1, 2009, persons performing duties as VSO on-board a seagoing vessel subject to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, must hold a
valid Coast Guard-issued credential with a Vessel Security Officer endorsement. The Coast Guard will issue this endorsement only if the person meets the requirements of Regulation VI/5 of the STCW. (d) Requirements for
Coast Guard Endorsement: (1) To qualify for a VSO endorsement, a person must: (i) Be at least 18 years of age; (ii) Hold any valid Coast Guard-issued credential under the regulations specified in 46 CFR Subchapter B; (iv) Successfully complete a
Coast Guard-accepted VSO course; (v) Sea Service of not less than 12 months on any vessel subject to § 104.105 of this part, credited in accordance with 46 CFR 10.205(e), 10.211, and/or 10.213; or (B) Have approved sea service of not less than 6 months on any vessel subject to § 104.105 of
this part, credited in accordance with 46 CFR 10.205(b), 10.211, and/or 10.213, and have knowledge of vessel operations. (2) To qualify as a Coast Guard-accepted course a VSO course under paragraph (d)(1)(iv) of this section must require candidates to demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and proficiency in the following competencies: (i)
Maintaining and supervising the implementation of a vessel security plan; (ii) Assessing security risk, threat and vulnerability; (iii) Undertaking regular inspections of the vessel to ensure that appropriate security measures are implemented and maintained; (iv) Ensuring that security equipment and systems, if any, are properly operated, tested and
calibrated; (v) Encouraging security awareness and vigilance; and (vi) Ensuring compliance with the TWIC program requirements. (3) Candidates meeting the knowledge of vessel operations requirement under paragraph (d)(1)(v)(B) of this section must provide evidence through training or equivalent job experience, in the following areas: (i) Basic
vessel layout and construction: (A) Understanding layout, including decks, rooms and space numbering; and (B) Understanding of various vessel types; and working knowledge of nautical terms and definitions, especially those used to describe areas and parts of a vessel. (ii) Shipboard organization: familiarity with the various departments and related
functions, the titles used for personnel, the roles and responsibilities of these persons, and the chain of command. (iii) Shipboard safety: (A) Understanding of the importance of creating and maintaining safe working and living conditions for passengers and crew alike; (B) General shipboard safety rules, emergency alarms and signals, and responses to
and reporting of accidents; (C) Proper usage of protective equipment and where such equipment and general knowledge of procedures for entering enclosed spaces; (D) Proper usage of lifesaving equipment and where such equipment and where such equipment and where such equipment and general knowledge of protective equipment and where such equipment and where such equipment and where such equipment and general knowledge of protective equipment and where such equipment and where such equipment and some such equipment and where such equipment and some such eq
doors; and (F) Understanding where it is safe to smoke and not safe to smoke on board and in port. (iv) Protection of the marine environment; and (B) Basic working knowledge of pollution prevention regulations and techniques. (v) Familiarity with key
definitions, terminology, and operational practices employed in the maritime industry. (4) (i) Persons meeting the criteria in paragraphs (d)(4)(i)(A) and (B) of this section prior to the effective date of this regulation may successfully complete a refresher Coast Guard-accepted VSO course no later than July 1, 2009, to fulfill (d)(1)(iv) of this section.
Persons must have: (A) At least six months of VSO experience during the preceding three years; or (B) Successfully completed a VSO course that was not approved by the Maritime Administration (MARAD) on behalf of the Coast Guard. Maritime Administration (MARAD) on behalf of the Coast Guard.
2002, Public Law 107-295. (ii) To be eligible to take a refresher Coast Guard-accepted VSO course, a person must present to the course provider documentary evidence that he or she meets the criteria in (d)(4) (i) of this section are
subject to Coast Guard acceptance under 46 CFR 10.309(a)(10)(ii). (6) Vessel Security Officer courses approved by MARAD on behalf of the Coast Guard under 46 CFR 10.309 as meeting the requirements of paragraphs (d)
(1)(iv) and (d)(2) of this section. (7) Persons who hold a valid "Vessel Security Officer" endorsement may serve as vessel or company personnel (33 CFR 104.225), without meeting any additional requirements. (e) Responsibilities. In addition to those responsibilities and duties
specified elsewhere in this part, the VSO must, for each vessel for which he or she has been designated: (1) Regularly inspect the vessel to ensure that security measures are maintained; (2) Ensure that security measures are maintained; (3) Ensure that security measures are maintained; (2) Ensure that security measures are maintained; (3) Ensure that security measures are maintained; (3) Ensure that security measures are maintained; (4) Ensure that security measures are maintained; (5) Ensure that security measures are maintained; (6) Ensure that security measures are maintained; (7) Ensure that security measures are maintained; (8) Ensure that security measures are maintained; (8) Ensure that security measures are maintained; (8) Ensure that security measures are maintained; (9) Ensure that security measures are maintained; (10) Ensure that security measures a
vessel stores and bunkers in compliance with this part; (4) Propose modifications to the VSP to the Company Security Officer (CSO); (5) Ensure that any problems identified during audits or inspections are reported to the CSO, and promptly implement any corrective actions; (6) Ensure security awareness and vigilance on board the vessel; (7) Ensure
adequate security training for vessel personnel; (8) Ensure the reporting and recording of all security incidents; (9) Ensure the coordinated implementation of the VSP with the CSO and the relevant Facility Security Officer, when applicable; (10) Ensure security equipment is properly operated, tested, calibrated and maintained; and (11) Ensure
0028, 73 FR 29070, May 20, 2008; 73 FR 34191, June 17, 2008; USCG-2007-28915, 81 FR 57710, Aug. 23, 2016] Page 2 Company and vessel personnel responsible for security duties must have knowledge, through training or equivalent job experience, in the following, as appropriate: (a) Knowledge of current security
threats and patterns; (b) Recognition and detection of dangerous substances and devices; (c) Recognition of characteristics and behavioral patterns of persons who are likely to threaten security; (d) Techniques used to circumvent security measures; (e) Crowd management and control techniques; (f) Security related communications; (g) Knowledge of
emergency procedures and contingency plans; (h) Operation of security equipment and systems; (i) Testing and calibration of security equipment and systems; (i) Inspection, control, and monitoring techniques; (k) Relevant provisions of the Vessel Security Plan (VSP); (l) Methods of physical screening of persons,
personal effects, baggage, cargo, and vessel stores; and (m) The meaning and the consequential requirements of the different Maritime Security (MARSEC) Levels. (n) Relevant aspects of the TWIC program and how to carry them out. Page 3 All other vessel personnel, including contractors, whether part-time, full-time, temporary, or permanent, must
have knowledge of, through training or equivalent job experience in the following, as appropriate: (a) Relevant provisions of the Vessel Security Plan (VSP); (b) The meaning and the consequential requirements of the different Maritime Security Plan (VSP); (b) The meaning and the consequential requirements of the different Maritime Security Plan (VSP); (b) The meaning and the consequential requirements of the different Maritime Security Plan (VSP); (c) Recognition and detection
of dangerous substances and devices; (d) Recognition of characteristics and behavioral patterns of persons who are likely to threaten security; and (e) Techniques used to circumvent security measures. (f) Relevant aspects of the TWIC program and how to carry them out.
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