



# CIRCULAR NO.1-2023/MARITIME SECURITY

27 FEBRUARY 2023

This Circular serves to provide regular information from the Maritime Security Committee established by law about maritime security and security information of interest in Solomon Islands.

The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974 have force of law in Solomon Islands as per the Shipping Act 1998 as amended. The Chapter XI-2 of SOLAS on Special Measures to Enhance Maritime Security and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code contain detailed security-related requirements for governments, port authorities and shipping companies visited by, or operating vessels engaged in international voyages. The Maritime Safety Administration (Ship and Port Security) Regulations 2011 provide for maritime security management and responsibilities in Solomon Islands.

## SECURITY LEVEL

Solomon Islands is currently at the **Security Level 1**. Section 2.1 of the ISPS Code Part A defines **Security Level 1** as: *“the level for which minimum appropriate protective security measures shall be maintained at all times.”*

**Security Level 2** *“means the level for which appropriate additional protective security measures shall be maintained for a period of time as a result of heightened risk of a security incident.”*

**Security Level 3** *“means the level for which further specific protective security measures shall be maintained for a limited period of time when a security incident is probable or imminent, although it may not be possible to identify the specific target.”*

## FROM THE MARITIME SECURITY COMMITTEE

The Maritime Security Committee met four times in 2022 to review actions taken on pressing issues affecting maritime security in Solomon Islands. The main issues and actions points monitored by the Committee are:

- i) security of Solomon Islands vessels engaged in international voyages and progress of ship owners and SIMA to establish and review Ship Security Plans, conduct audits and issue the International Ship Security Certificate,
- ii) security compliance of port facilities (Honiara Port, Noro Port and Leroy Wharf Port) which is at the required level working on improving the strict implementation of the Port Facility Security Plans and continual improvement (internal audits),
- iii) identification of places throughout Solomon Islands of loading/discharging of vessels engaged in international voyages to improve security awareness, and
- iv) implementing lessons learned from the 2021 civil unrest and elevation to Security Level 2 in Honiara Port and exercising security measures.

The Solomon Islands Government is working on its whole-of-government approach to maritime security with the support of development partners.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF SECTION 28(2) OF THE SHIP AND PORT SECURITY REGULATIONS 2011?

It is the responsibility of the Port Facility Security Officer to ensure that employees and agents are provided with a basic level of training, the object of which is to establish a minimum mandatory level of security awareness, including training relating to: (a) port layout and organizations within the port area; (b) the role of the Port Authority, Administration, Police, and other government agencies; (c) fundamental port security procedures; (d) access control within port areas; (e) threat responses, and (f) other appropriate training specific to their duties.

**AUSTRALIA: SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES AGAINST ILLICIT MARITIME ACTIVITIES**

From early February to early March, Australia will engage in monitoring and surveillance activities by aircraft against illicit maritime activities. The activities include ship-to-ship transfers with North Korean-flagged vessels prohibited by the United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs), using Kadena Air Base under the Agreement Regarding the Status of the United Nations Forces in Japan. It will be the eleventh time for such activities to take place since 2018.

Japan welcomed these activities from the viewpoint of ensuring effective implementation of the relevant UNSCRs while maintaining the solidarity of the international community for the realization of North Korea's dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner.

The Japan Coast Guard and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force are also conducting information-gathering activities for vessels suspected to be in violation of the UNSCRs, and Japan will work closely with related countries.

Source: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/> (8 February)

**TRANSNATIONAL CRIME****NEW ZEALAND INTERCEPTS 3.2 TONNES OF COCAINE FLOATING IN PACIFIC OCEAN**

A joint operation conducted by New Zealand Police, Customs and the Defense Force has resulted in the seizure of 3.2 tonnes of cocaine found adrift in the Pacific Ocean. The seizure is estimated to be worth US\$315m million and is the largest detection made by New Zealand. The cocaine packages were contained in 81 bales attached to flotation devices. Authorities have stated that international criminal groups continue to use New Zealand to access other markets. The intended market was believed to be Australia.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/feb/08/new-zealand-intercepts-cocaine-3-tonne-500m-floating-pacific-ocean#:~:text=New%20Zealand%20authorities%20have%20found,m%2C%20AU%24456m>

**WHAT IS THE HONIARA DECLARATION?**

The Honiara Declaration on Law Enforcement Cooperation strengthens regional approaches to counter transnational crime. It supports sharing of information and legislation on extradition, proceeds of crime and asset forfeiture, mutual criminal assistance, and other aspects of economic crime. Law enforcement training is also prioritised. The Declaration takes its name from the Solomon Islands capital where it was signed in 1992.

The Declaration continues to provide foundational guiding principles for comprehensive, integrated, and collaborative Pacific law enforcement cooperation. It complements other Pacific security mechanisms while recognising the distinct roles of regional law enforcement bodies. It underlines the strategic role of the Forum in coordinating specialist law enforcement agencies and advising Forum Leaders on law enforcement issues.

Source: <https://www.pacificfusioncentre.org/>

**CONTACT**

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