



CIRCULAR NO.4-2022/MARITIME SECURITY

19 JULY 2022

These 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 (MSC) has agreed to amend its membership and integrated a representative of the SIG Immigration Division and a representative of the logistics, mining and logging industry to ensure security is taken into account in immigration processes and by shipping companies and operators engaged in international services.

MSC has also agreed to conduct a security exercise at the Honiara Port Facility to test the Port Facility Security Plan and good collaboration by all stakeholders having responsibilities in the security of vessels engaged in international voyages. The exercise will involve an international vessel and her shipping agent in Solomon Islands, Honiara Port Facility, SIMA, Maritime Police, Customs and the Fire Services.

DID YOU KNOW?

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF SECTION 3. OF THE SHIP AND PORT SECURITY REGULATIONS 2011?

Section 3 makes applicable security to (a) Solomon Islands passenger ships whatever the size engaged in international voyages; (b) Solomon Islands cargo ships of 500 gross tonnage and upwards engaged on international voyages; (c) ports and port facilities within ports in Solomon Islands that serve vessels engaged on international voyages; (d) all foreign vessels in Solomon Islands waters to which the SOLAS Convention applies; and e) fishing-vessels of 12 meters in length and above which are fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Solomon Islands.

The implication for Solomon Islands and shipping operators are as follow:

- (i) Solomon Islands vessels engaged in international voyages must apply security standards and have a Ship Security Plan and an International Ship Security Certificate issued by SIMA – it is essential domestic ship operators are mindful of this requirement when they want to send their ship to neighboring countries,

- (ii) most of the foreign vessels must apply international security standards which is the way Solomon Islands protect itself from international security threats and has the right to impose security measures under SOLAS,
- (iii) any port, facility or place of loading/discharging is subject to international security standards if they serve international vessels; it allows international vessels which apply these standards to benefit from the same level of security when they call in Solomon Islands ports – elevated security measures during the 2021 civil unrest event contributed to not disrupt the traffic of international vessels bringing essential goods to the country.

NEWS

HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY - FUTURE OF NUCLEAR LAW DISCUSSED IN INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY CONFERENCE

The future of nuclear law is being considered in the context of emerging nuclear issues and their applicable legal frameworks. The International Atomic Energy Agency is hosting its first International Conference on Nuclear Law: The Global Debate. Over 900 lawyers and representatives of national authorities, international organizations, nuclear industry, and civil society from 127 countries are participating. The criticality of international legal instruments, standards, and norms to ensure safety and security is being discussed.

This conference is playing an important role in ensuring nuclear law remains responsive to emerging trends. Nuclear law permeates the entire nuclear sector and underpins all peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. This includes through international treaties on safety and security and agreements enabling the verification of nations' nuclear non-proliferation commitments, among others. Look out for our upcoming primer on the Treaty of Rarotonga for more information on this treaty and its role in Pacific security.

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

CYBER SECURITY - ADVISORY IDENTIFIES TOP ROUTINELY EXPLOITED CYBER VULNERABILITIES IN 2021

In 2021, malicious cyber actors aggressively targeted newly disclosed critical software vulnerabilities. Dated software vulnerabilities were also exploited to a lesser extent. A joint Cybersecurity Advisory has been released by cyber authorities of the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. It identifies the top 15 cyber security vulnerabilities observed in 2021 as well as mitigating strategies. A broad spectrum of public and private sector organizations continues to be targeted.

The Pacific remains vulnerable to a range of cyber security threats and ageing IT systems with known vulnerabilities continue to provide openings for direct cyber-attacks. An attack against Pacific government entities, critical infrastructure or service deliverers has the proven capacity to disrupt all levels of the community with social and economic consequences. See the Australian Cyber Security Centre Technical Advisory and Essential Eight Maturity Model for steps to secure systems and networks.

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

CONTACT

For anything related to maritime security please contact Ms. Duri Qalorusa, Senior Officer, Maritime Security at SIMA duri.qalorusa@sima.gov.sb.