



# **GUIDELINES ON SECURITY VERIFICATIONS & CERTIFICATION**

*Procedures for verification of compliance and certification of ships & ports*

Solomon Islands Maritime Authority  
[www.sima.gov.sb](http://www.sima.gov.sb)

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## Introduction

The Diploma Conference on Maritime Security held in London in December 2002 adopted new provisions in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 and this Code is to “enhance maritime security.” These new requirements form the national framework through which ships and port facilities can co-operate to detect and deter acts which threaten security in the maritime transport sector.

Since then, the ISPS Code was domesticated to Maritime Safety Administration (Ship and Port Security) Regulation 2011 - <https://www.sima.gov.sb/wp-content/uploads/Maritime-Safety-Adminstration-Ship-and-Port-Security-Regulations-2011.pdf>, in Part 9, section 30-37 explains the procedures and the requirements of having an International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) on board require vessels. For Port Facilities a Statement of Compliance (SoC) will be issued when PFSA and PFSPs are approved by the Designated Authority (DA).

Ships falling under the Maritime Security Measures must carry either the International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) or, in limited circumstances, the Interim ISSC, both of which are issued by their Administration.

Administration inspects ships entitled to fly their flag in connection with the issue, intermediate verification, and renewal of ISSCs; the issue of Interim ISSCs; and at any other time to assess the ship's compliance with the Maritime Security Measures.

Security Audits and Certification procedures are crucial for Port Facilities and vessels intending to trade internationally. Because without being audited and certified a Port and a vessel cannot continue with their international trades or being approved to operate internationally.

## PORT SECURITY

### What is the Statement of Compliance (SoC)?

A Statement of Compliance (SoC) is a document used to confirm that a Port Facility is compliant to ISPS Code and the Maritime Safety Administration (Ship and Port) Regulations 2011 requirements.

### What are the requirements to have for a Port Facility to be issued SoC?

A Port Facility must have an approved Port Facility Security Plan (PFSP) and Port Facility Security Assessment (PFSA) by the SIMA Director, Designated Authority (DA).

### How can a Port Facility have a Port Facility Security Plan, Port Facility Security Assessment & SoC?

By implementing these steps:

- PFSA are carried out with the assistance of a preferred Recognized Security Organization (RSO).

- Submit the PFSA to Designated Authority (SIMA) for review and approval.
- Develop the Port Facility Security Plan (PFSP) with the assistance of one of the approved RSOs that are preferred by Port.
- Submit the PFSP to SIMA - Designated Authority (DA), for review and approval.
- Once the PFSA and the PFSP are approved, SIMA to conduct External Port Security Audit to verify the implementation of the PFSP and the compliance of equipment's, systems, and procedures within the Port Facility.
- Upon successful Audit then the issuance of the Statement of Compliance will be issued by SIMA.
- All approval of PFSAs, PFSPs & Audit reports are done by SIMA Director.

### How long is this process going to take?

- It will take up to 2 to 6 months, depending on the capacity of the Port Facility.

### How many Recognized Security Organizations do we have?

There are three (3) Recognized Security Organizations that are approved by SIMA to assist Ports and Ship owners regarding developing PFSAs, PFSPs, SSAs & SSPs.

### Why did SIMA selected and recognized 3 RSOs?

SIMA selected and recognized 3 RSOs to assist ports and shipping companies with security that can include developing PFSPs/PFSAs & SSAs/SSPs, conduct internal audits, do review, etc.

RSOs are delegated with duties and responsibilities, but not to the extent list below:

- Setting of the applicable security level
- The approval of a Port, Port Facility or Ship Security Assessment, and subsequent amendments to an approved assessment.
- The determination of the port or port facility that will be required to appoint a Port or Port Facility Security Officer,
- The approval of a Port, Port Facility or Ship Security Plan, and subsequent amendments to an approved plan.

### What are the RSOs names/addresses?

Managing Director, Mr Brian Aonima ATEC Maritime Professional Service P.O. Box 1419 Tasahe Estate Honiara Solomon Islands	Managing Director, Mr. William Barile Barile Engineering and Management Consultancy Service Limited (BEMCSL) P.O. Box GC7 Tandai Highway Honiara Solomon Islands	Managing Director, Mr. Nelson Kikoni NK Ships & Shore Facility Security Consultant P.O. Box 29 Noro/Munda Western Province Solomon Islands
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## **What is the validity period of the SoC?**

The Statement of Compliance is valid for 5 years (should not exceed five (5) years).

## **When should the Interim SoC be issued?**

An Interim Statement of Compliance (Interim SoC) Certificate is issued to a Port Facility when it is newly set up or is in a transition state.

# SHIP SECURITY

## What is the International Ship Security Certificate?

International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) is a certification issued to ships verifying that the vessel complies with the requirements of the International Ship and Port Security Code (ISPS Code) and the Ship and Port Regulation 2011.

## What are the requirements to have for a vessel to be issued to ISSC?

The Vessel that intends to engage in international voyages should have a Ship Security Plan (SSP) and Ship Security Assessment (SSA) approved by SIMA and hold an International Ship Security Certificate on board.

## How can a Vessel have a Ship Security Plan, Ship Security Assessment & ISSC?

By implementing these steps:

- Conduct a Ship Security assessments (SSA) with the assistance of preferred Recognized Security Organization (RSO).
- Submit the SSA to Designated Authority (SIMA) for review and approval.
- Shipping company to develop the Ship Security Plan (SSP) with the assistance of the approved RSO that the shipping company prefers to engage.
- Submit the SSP to SIMA - Designated Authority (DA), for review and approval.
- Once the SSA and the SSP are approved by the SIMA Director, then the External Ship Security Audit will be conducted by SIMA.
- Upon Successful audit, SIMA issues the International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC).
- All approval of SSAs, SSPs and Audit reports are done by SIMA Director.

## How long is this process going to take?

Up to 2 to 6 months, depending very much on the capacity of the shipping company.

## When will the Interim ISSC be issued and for how long?

When the shipping company newly develops and submits its SSAs and SSPs to SIMA for review against the ISPS Code and approval; an Interim International Ship Security Certificate (Interim ISSC), can be issued for 6 months.

## When will the Audit be conducted?

After a short period for implementation (up to 3 months), SIMA conducts an External Ship Security Audits on board to verify implementation of the SSP and Compliance of equipment's, systems, and procedures on board.

## **How long will the shipping company be notified before SIMA conducts External Ship Security Audit on board?**

SIMA will send one (1) month notification prior to the External Ship Security Audit date.

## **How often will the External Ship Security Audit be conducted?**

External Ship Security Audits are often conducted annually.

Initial External Ship Security Audit is the first ship security audit conducted when a vessel has first developed her SSA and SSP.

## **What is the validity period of ISSC?**

The International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) validation period is five (5) years.

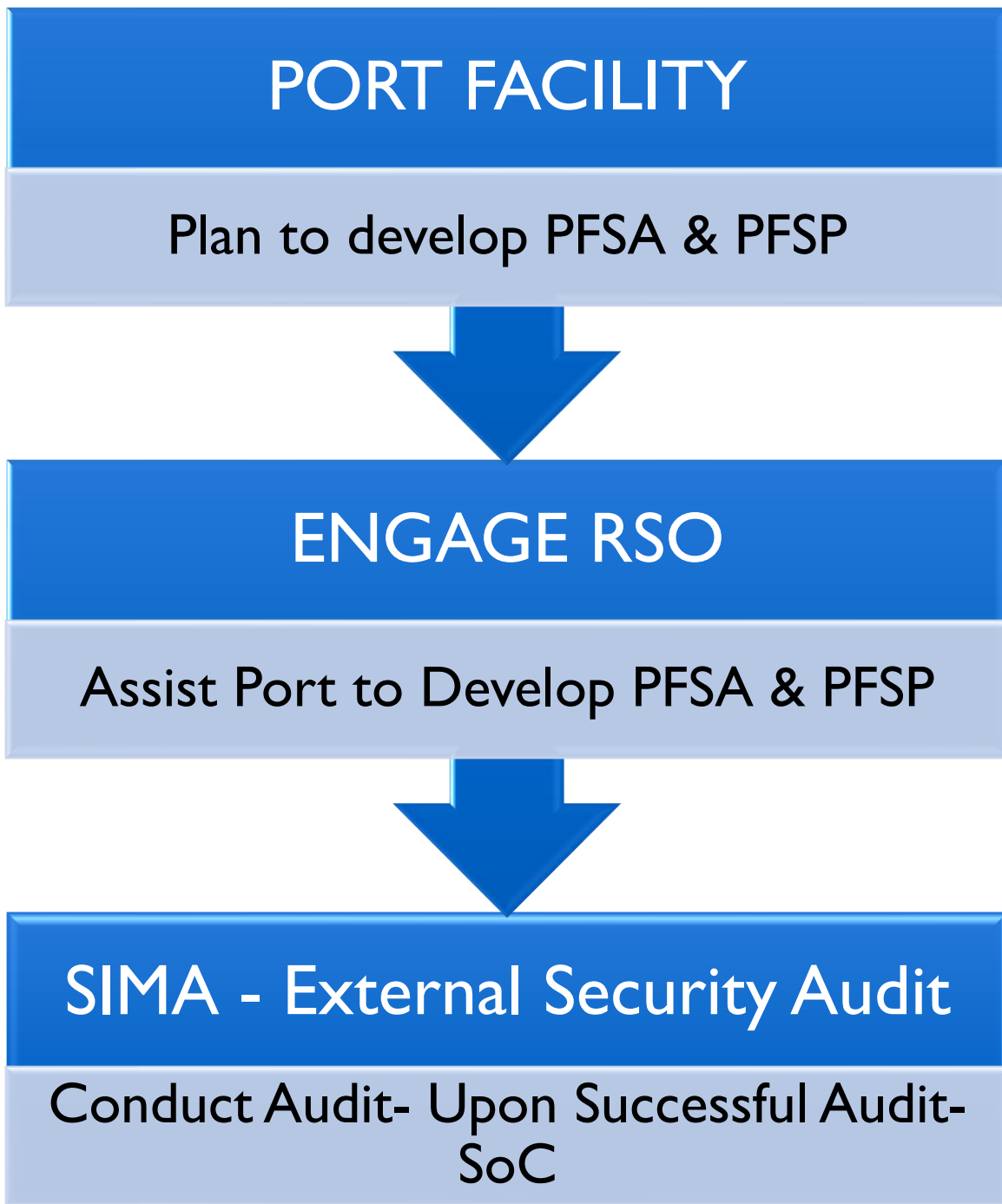


## CONCLUSION

Compliance with ISPS Code and Ship & Port Regulations 2011 must be maintained for effective implementation and update of PFSA, PFSP, SSA & SSP.

Security compliance and certification of ships and ports in Solomon Islands contribute to international and national efforts to maritime security and to prevent and suppress acts threatening people and assets of Solomon Islands.

## Appendix 1 – Procedure of Issuance of SoC



## Appendix 2 – Procedure of Issuance of ISSC

