



CIRCULAR NO.1-2021/MARITIME SECURITY

20 AUGUST 2021

This Circular provides regular information 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. **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 Committee already met 4 times in 2020-2021.

Members are: Thierry Nervale (Director SIMA – **Chair**), Andrew Kilimani (SIPA’s Port Facility Security Officer – **Vice-Chair**), Wesley Siamanu (Manager Border Customs – **Member**), Ronny Horo (Deputy Director National Security (MPNSCS) – **Member**), Nevol Soko (Acting Director, RSIPF RSIPF Maritime Division – **Member**), Fred Pelebo (Supervising Fire Director, Fire Services – **Member**), Shirley Abe (General Manager Solfish Company Ltd – **Member**), Francis Peter (Agency Manager Tradco Shipping – **Member**), Katy Nori (Managing Director Nofokava Transport Logistic – **Member**), and Duri Qalorusa (SIMA Senior Officer Maritime, Security – **Secretariat**).

Some of the issues currently under the Maritime Security Committee oversight:

- Identify and ensure all places where vessels engaged in international voyages are loaded/discharged comply to the applicable maritime security laws and implement a Port Facility Security Plan (PFSP) when required.
- Organise in 2021 a major security exercise at Honiara Port and involving one vessel engaged in international voyages to test our response capacity to security threats.

DID YOU KNOW?

WHICH ORGANIZATION IS THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITY FOR MARITIME SECURITY IN SOLOMON ISLANDS?

As per the Maritime Safety Administration (Ship and Port Security) Regulations 2011, **the Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA) is the Designated Authority (DA) for maritime security** and has responsibilities in: i) maritime security policy, legislation, standards and procedures; ii) auditing and enforcing compliance with maritime security policy, legislation, standards and procedures; iii) approving security plans; iv) coordinating the maritime security policy response to any security threat; v) coordinating the provision of maritime security intelligence; vi) providing advice on maritime security.

WHAT DOES SECTION 19. OF THE MARITIME SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (SHIP AND PORT SECURITY) REQUIRE?

Section 19. of the 2011 Regs. prescribes the provision of the information by ships intending to enter a Solomon Islands port as a condition of entry, in particular the confirmation that the ship possesses a valid internationally recognised security certificate, the details of the ship's current security level and the security level at the ship operated in the previous 10 port of calls.

The Director SIMA can require other information that are listed in section 19. of the 2011 Regs. which is based on his assessment of the vessel intending to enter a port of Solomon Islands.

The letter 518/03/53 dated 16 November 2020 to all shipping agents reminded the obligation and mandatory documents and information to be furnished to SIMA at mrcc@solomon.com.sb 24 hours before a vessel enters Solomon Islands waters.

The 2011 Regs. can be found at: <https://www.sima.gov.sb/shipping-ops-safety/acts-regulations/>.

NEWS

RECOGNISED SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS

Governments can authorize **Recognized Security Organizations (RSOs) to undertake certain of their responsibilities under the Maritime Security Measures** such as verification of ship's compliance, conduct of port facility security assessments and provision of advice and assistance to port facilities on security matters (port and ship facility security assessments and plans (PFSAs, PFSPs, SSAs and SSPs).

However, RSO are not delegated duties such as setting the security level or approving PFSAs, PFSPs, SSAs and SSPs, or exercising control and compliance measures in respect of foreign-flagged SOLAS ships.

In Solomon Islands, there are 3 RSOs which are delegated some security duties. Port facilities and shipping companies must contact SIMA to know about delegated duties before contracting an RSO. Solomon Islands RSOs are:

- o ATEC Maritime Professional Service – contact Mr. Brian Aonima aonimab@gmail.com,
- o BEMCL– contact: Mr. William Barille billbarile@gmail.com,
- o NK Ship and Shore Facility Consultant– contact: Mr. Nelson Kikoni nelsonkikoni6@gmail.com.

HUMAN SECURITY AND MARITIME SECURITY – MITIGATING THE RISK OF THE COVID-19 SPREAD

The shipping industry supports critical global supply chains, but seafarers remain at high risk of COVID-19 outbreaks aboard. The International Chamber of Shipping estimates that only around 2.5 per cent - of approximately 1.6 million seafarers globally - are vaccinated. Some efforts to deliver vaccination programs across international ports have commenced, but rollouts across the shipping industry remain highly complex. Bloomberg reports on calls to ensure the human security of crews whilst facilitating global trade.

COVID-19 is not a maritime security threat *stricto sensu* as per the ISPS Code. However, the lack of implementation of Maritime Security Measures can facilitate the illegal and uncontrolled movement of people and small boats between the community and international vessels, and the access to these vessels increasing the risk of spread of COVID-19. The Government and SIMA as DA is working closing with our declared ports facilities to increase vigilance, strictly implement and increase Maritime Security Measures and mitigate the risk. If you have any information related to the illegal or uncontrolled access to international vessels, please immediately contact SIMA.

To read on this topic: <https://www.pacificfusioncentre.org/covid-19-border-management-and-security-in-the-pacific-region/> & <https://www.pacificfusioncentre.org/open-source-summary-12-16-july-2021/>

CONTACT

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