CIRCULAR NO.2-2022/MARITIME SECURITY

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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 Committee welcomed two new members in response to previous requests of having representation of companies involved in logistics and transportation and of immigration authority. The 2 members are:

- Mr. Louis Tiong, Operation Manager, Gafung Solomon Islands (SI) Limited, and
- Mr. Owen Rove, Chief Immigration Officer, Immigration Division.

At its last meeting, the Committee again called for all shipping companies through their agents or directly, to ensure security measures are properly implemented by foreign vessels and activities are declared and comply to applicable maritime and immigration laws.

DID YOU KNOW?

WHAT IS A DECLARATION OF SECURITY (DOS)?

The **Declaration of Security (DOS) is an instrument created by the ISPS Code to allow exchange of information between the ship and the port facility**. In Solomon Islands, the DOS is a requirement under Maritime Safety Administration (Ship and Port Security) Regulations 2011. The DOS facilitates agreement between the ship and the port facility, or for ship-to-ship interfaces, to implement security measures in accordance with the provisions of their respective approved security plans.

There is usually no need for a DOS if both the ship and the port facility are the same level and there is no specific information to communicate. The DOS is used in case of circumstances like a security incident, an identified threat, a change in security level or if either the ship or the port facility need to communicate security information.

A DOS can be issued at the initiative of the ship or the port facility or can be required by the Director after having assessed the security risk. For instance, the Director SIMA required a DOS to be exchanged between the ships and Honiara Port when the facility escalated its level to Security Level 2 in December 2021 for the civil unrest. The DOS was used to inform the ships of the Honiara Port security level and to require the ship to move to Security Level 2 when at berth.

WHAT DOES SECTION 3. (1) OF THE MARITIME SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (SHIP AND PORT SECURITY) REGULATIONS 2011 REQUIRE?

This section is the application of the Maritime Safety Administration (Ship and Port Security) Regulations 2011 to:

(a) Solomon Islands passenger ships, including high-speed craft, engaged on 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 metres in length and above which are fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Solomon Islands.

Given that there are no Solomon Islands vessels engaged in international voyages, the main activities of SIMA as the administration responsible for maritime security, are related to international vessels coming to Solomon Islands and the certification of port facilities within Solomon Islands serving international vessels like Honiara Port, Noro Port and Leroy Wharf Port.

NEWS

HUMAN SECURITY – RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

This is the largest offensive on a European country since World War II and will have implications both internationally and for the Pacific region. International condemnation of the attack is widespread. Both Australia and New Zealand have condemned the offensive and Australia has placed sanctions on Russian entities and offered cyber support. New Zealand has introduced several targeted measures. The Pacific Fusion Centre is producing an assessment on impacts to Pacific Island Countries.

Source: https://mailchi.mp/pacificfusioncentre.org/pfc-weekly-open-source-summary-15328300?e=9307f99f16

CYBER SECURITY - RUSSIA-BACKED HACKERS BEHIND POWERFUL NEW MALWARE, UK AND US SAY

The Russian cyber offensive against Ukraine has been wide-reaching and involved advanced new malware. Distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks attributed to Russia have targeted several Ukrainian banks and government departments, rendering them inaccessible. The United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre, the National Security Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have also released a joint advisory of new and disruptive malware also attributed to Russian actors.

The Russian cyber security offensive against Ukraine sets new and dangerous precedents for cyber warfare. Cyber security professionals have also warned of potential global spillovers because of these attacks. The Australian Cyber Security Centre has encouraged Australian organizations to urgently adopt an enhanced cyber security posture.

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/23/russia-hacking-malware-cyberattack-virus-ukraine

IMO REGULATIONS FOR CYBER SECURITY – UNDERSTANDING INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CYBER RISK MANAGEMENT

In response to the growing threat of cyber-crime, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has issued Resolution MSC.428 (98). This regulation has since been complemented by other guidelines, notably those developed by the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) for cyber risk management.

These guidelines lay out high-level recommendations for incorporating cyber risk management into existing safety management system (SMS) processes, enabling ship owners to protect their vessels. As of January 1, 2021, all ship owners must comply with IMO Resolution MSC.428 (98) in order to continue sailing worldwide.

Source: https://marine-offshore.bureauveritas.com/imo-regulations-cyber-security

Port facilities should consider cybersecurity management and strengthen their systems.

CONTACT

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