



CIRCULAR NO.4-2021/MARITIME SECURITY

30 NOVEMBER 2021

This Circular serves to provide regular information from the Maritime Security Committee 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

There has been a change in the level of maritime security in Solomon Islands due to the recent civil unrest and the current situation under the *Preservation of Public Security (No. 2) Regulations 2021* imposing a night-time curfew from 7pm to 6am every day until further notice.

We are at **Security Level 2 at Honiara Port Facility in Point Cruz** since 28 November 2021 when vessels engaged in international voyages are at berth. The vessels must elevate their security level at level 2 from the time they enter Honiara Port area or leave their anchorage to come to berth, until they leave Honiara Port.

Leroy Wharf Port facility and Honiara Port facility are at Security Level 1 with additional measures when there are no vessels at berth. All international vessels at anchor are at Security Level 1. Noro Port facility is at 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 decision to apply Security level 2 to Honiara Port facility was made based on the recent incidents and associated risk for vessels conducting cargo operations in port. Change to Security Level 2 is a decision from the Director of the Solomon Islands Maritime Authority after advice and communication with the Maritime Security Committee and Law Enforcement Agencies.

Maritime operators must be vigilant and immediately report any security incident to the Solomon Islands Maritime Authority at mrcc@solomon.com.sb or 977, and to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force.

The objective of maintaining Security Level 2 is to protect international vessels in port and reassure international shipping operators that shipping operations are safe and secure in Solomon Islands.

Shipping agents must inform their principals and facilitate the signing of a Declaration of Security (DOS) between the port facility and the vessel before the vessel arrives in Honiara. For further information please contact SIMA at mrcc@solomon.com.sb.

CONTACT

For anything related to maritime security please contact Duri Qalorusa, Senior Officer, Maritime Security at SIMA duri.qalorusa@sima.gov.sb or visit SIMA's website at: <https://www.sima.gov.sb/shipping-ops-safety/maritime-security/>.