

Subpart D—Vessel Security Plan (VSP)

§ 104.400 General.

(a) The Company Security Officer (CSO) must ensure a Vessel Security Plan (VSP) is developed and implemented for each vessel. The VSP:

(1) Must identify the CSO and VSO by name or position and provide 24-hour contact information;

(2) Must be written in English, although a translation of the VSP in the working language of vessel personnel may also be developed;

(3) Must address each vulnerability identified in the Vessel Security Assessment (VSA);

(4) Must describe security measures for each MARSEC Level;

(5) Must state the Master's authority as described in § 104.205; and

(6) May cover more than one vessel to the extent that they share similarities in physical characteristics and operations, if authorized and approved by the Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Center.

(b) The VSP must be submitted to the Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Center (MSC) 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 6302, Nassif Building, Washington, DC 20590-0001, in a written or electronic format. Information for submitting the VSP electronically can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/HQ/MSC>. Owners or operators of foreign flag vessels that are subject to SOLAS Chapter XI-1 or Chapter XI-2 must comply with this part by carrying on board a valid International Ship Security Certificate that certifies that the verifications required by Section 19.1 of part A of the ISPS Code (Incorporated by reference, see § 101.115 of this subchapter) have been completed. As stated in Section 9.4 of the ISPS Code, part A requires that, in order for the ISSC to be issued, the provisions of part B of the ISPS Code need to be taken into account.

(c) The VSP is sensitive security information and must be protected in accordance with 49 CFR part 1520.

(d) If the VSP is kept in an electronic format, procedures must be in place to

prevent its unauthorized deletion, destruction, or amendment.

[USCG-2003-14749, 68 FR 39302, July 1, 2003, as amended at 68 FR 60515, Oct. 22, 2003; USCG-2004-18057, 69 FR 34925, June 23, 2004]

§ 104.405 Format of the Vessel Security Plan (VSP).

(a) A vessel owner or operator must ensure that the VSP consists of the individual sections listed in this paragraph (a). If the VSP does not follow the order as it appears in the list, the vessel owner or operator must ensure that the VSP contains an index identifying the location of each of the following sections:

(1) Security organization of the vessel;

(2) Personnel training;

(3) Drills and exercises;

(4) Records and documentation;

(5) Response to change in MARSEC Level;

(6) Procedures for interfacing with facilities and other vessels;

(7) Declarations of Security (DoS);

(8) Communications;

(9) Security systems and equipment maintenance;

(10) Security measures for access control;

(11) Security measures for restricted areas;

(12) Security measures for handling cargo;

(13) Security measures for delivery of vessel stores and bunkers;

(14) Security measures for monitoring;

(15) Security incident procedures;

(16) Audits and Vessel Security Plan (VSP) amendments; and

(17) Vessel Security Assessment (VSA) Report.

(b) The VSP must describe in detail how the requirements of subpart B of this part will be met.

§ 104.410 Submission and approval.

(a) In accordance with § 104.115, on or before December 31, 2003, each vessel owner or operator must either:

(1) Submit one copy of their Vessel Security Plan (VSP), in English, for review and approval to the Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Center (MSC) and a letter certifying that the VSP

meets applicable requirements of this part; or

(2) If intending to operate under an Approved Security Program, a letter signed by the vessel owner or operator stating which approved Alternative Security Program the owner or operator intends to use.

(b) Owners or operators of vessels not in service on or before December 31, 2003, must comply with the requirements in paragraph (a) of this section 60 days prior to beginning operations or by December 31, 2003, whichever is later.

(c) The Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Center (MSC), will examine each submission for compliance with this part, and either:

(1) Approve it and specify any conditions of approval, returning to the submitter a letter stating its acceptance and any conditions;

(2) Return it for revision, returning a copy to the submitter with brief descriptions of the required revisions; or

(3) Disapprove it, returning a copy to the submitter with a brief statement of the reasons for disapproval.

(d) A VSP may be submitted and approved to cover more than one vessel where the vessel design and operations are similar.

(e) Each company or vessel, owner or operator, that submits one VSP to cover two or more vessels of similar design and operation must address vessel-specific information that includes the physical and operational characteristics of each vessel.

(f) A plan that is approved by the MSC is valid for 5 years from the date of its approval.

[USCG-2003-14749, 68 FR 39302, July 1, 2003, as amended at 68 FR 60515, Oct. 22, 2003]

§ 104.415 Amendment and audit.

(a) *Amendments.* (1) Amendments to a Vessel Security Plan that are approved by the Marine Safety Center (MSC) may be initiated by:

(i) The vessel owner or operator; or

(ii) The Coast Guard upon a determination that an amendment is needed to maintain the vessel's security. The Coast Guard will give the vessel owner or operator written notice and request that the vessel owner or operator propose amendments addressing any mat-

ters specified in the notice. The company owner or operator will have at least 60 days to submit its proposed amendments. Until amendments are approved, the company owner or operator shall ensure temporary security measures are implemented to the satisfaction of the Coast Guard.

(2) Proposed amendments must be sent to the MSC at the address shown in § 104.400(b) of this part. If initiated by the company or vessel, owner or operator, the proposed amendment must be submitted at least 30 days before the amendment is to take effect unless the MSC allows a shorter period. The MSC will approve or disapprove the proposed amendment in accordance with § 104.410 of this part.

(3) Nothing in this section should be construed as limiting the vessel owner or operator from the timely implementation of such additional security measures not enumerated in the approved VSP as necessary to address exigent security situations. In such cases, the owner or operator must notify the MSC by the most rapid means practicable as to the nature of the additional measures, the circumstances that prompted these additional measures, and the period of time these additional measures are expected to be in place.

(4) If the owner or operator has changed, the Vessel Security Officer (VSO) must amend the Vessel Security Plan (VSP) to include the name and contact information of the new vessel owner or operator and submit the affected portion of the VSP for review and approval in accordance with § 104.410 of this part.

(b) *Audits.* (1) The CSO or VSO must ensure an audit of the VSP is performed annually, beginning no later than one year from the initial date of approval and attach a letter to the VSP certifying that the VSP meets the applicable requirements of this part.

(2) The VSP must be audited if there is a change in the company's or vessel's ownership or operator, or if there have been modifications to the vessel, including but not limited to physical structure, emergency response procedures, security measures, or operations.