



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

No. 34

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FOR: Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters and Ship Officers

SUBJECT: SHIP SECURITY LEVEL

PURPOSE: This Circular provides a guideline on the subject of Ship Security Level for Tuvalu vessels.

REFERENCES: ISPS Code

All applicable Tuvalu registered vessels would be on Security Level 1 unless otherwise advised by the competent coastal state designated authority or the Port Facility Security Officer of the port that the vessels are calling.

The Tuvalu Ship Registry can also change the security level of Tuvalu registered vessels visiting a particular port facility or port or worldwide and such information will be communicated to the relevant Company Security Officer (CSO) or published as a Marine Circular.

The below is a definition of the various Security Levels and their implications:

Security level 1: normal, the level at which the ship or port facility normally operates. Security level 1 means the level for which minimum appropriate protective security measures shall be maintained at all times.

Security level 2: heightened, the level applying for as long as there is a heightened risk of a security incident.

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: exceptional, the level applying for the period of time when there is the probable or imminent 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.

Setting security level 3 should be an exceptional measure applying only when there is credible information that a security incident is probable or imminent. Security level 3 should only be set for the duration of the identified security threat or actual security incident. While the security levels may change from security level 1, through security level 2 to security level 3, it is also possible that the security levels will change directly from security level 1 to security level 3.



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When preparing the passage plan or in the process of a voyage, the Master, CSO, and Ship Security Officer (SSO) should take note of any security information originating from the following sources:

1. Regional Security Centres
2. International Maritime Bureau Piracy Reporting Centre (Piracy Report) – www.icc-ccs.org
3. International Maritime Organisation (IMO – under Maritime Security) – www.imo.org
4. Coastal State Designated Authority of Contracting Governments
5. Tuvalu Ship Registry

Areas of high maritime security risk should be avoided if possible, however in the event such areas cannot be avoided, then the Master, CSO and SSO should ensure that measures are taken to enhance security onboard in order to minimize the security risks.

For example, for vessels sailing off the coast of Somalia, the Master, CSO and SSO should implement all measures published in the following documents:

1. **Annex I** : Best Management Practices (BMP) to Deter Piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the Coast of Somalia (Version 2 August 2009)
2. **Annex II** : IMO MSC.1/Circ.1334 – Guidance to shipowners and ship operators, shipmasters and crews on preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

The above documents can be downloaded from the appropriate Annexes of this Marine Circular.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry