



Date: 26.07.2023
Page: 1 / 3

Circular No. : **2023.003**

To: All Shipowners, Agents, and Surveyors

Subject: Mandatory Submission of Ship Security Plan and Ship Security Assessment (SSP & SSA) for vessels under VEGA Register

Dear All,

As part of our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of safety and security within our RO, we are implementing a crucial measure to enhance maritime security. Effective [01/08/2023], it will be mandatory for all vessel under VEGA Register to submit their Ship Security Plan and Ship Security Assessment (SSP & SSA) to the designated email address: ssp@vegaregister.com

The Ship Security Plan (SSP) is a comprehensive document that outlines the procedures, strategies, and protocols in place to ensure the security of the vessel, its crew, and cargo against potential security threats and acts of terrorism. By centralizing the SSP submission process, we aim to streamline our security assessment procedures and expedite necessary approvals.

Ship Security Assessment (SSA):

According to the ISPS Code, Part A/8, it is required to all Company Security Officers vessels to make sure Ship Security Assessments (SSA), are carried out to all the vessels under their responsibility by persons with appropriate skills to evaluate the security of ships in accordance with the ISPS Code.

The Ship Security Assessment (SSA) is an essential and integral part of the process of developing and updating the Ship Security Plan on board.

The Ship Security Assessment (SSA) shall include an on-scene security survey but is not limited to the following elements:

- Identification of existing security measures, procedures and operations;
- Identification and evaluation of key shipboard operations that it is important to protect;
- Identification of possible threats to the key shipboard operations and the likelihood of their occurrence, in order to establish and prioritize security measures; and
- Identification of weaknesses, including human factors, in the infrastructure, policies and procedures.

The Ships Security Assessment (SSA) shall be documented, reviewed, accepted and retained by the company.

A Ship Security Assessment (SSA) should address the following elements on board:

- Physical security;
- Structural integrity;
- Personnel protection systems;
- Procedural policies;
- Radio and telecommunication systems, including computer systems and networks, following the Guidelines on Maritime Cyber Risk Management described;
- Other areas that may, if damaged or used for illicit observation, pose a risk to people, property or operations on board the ship or within a port facility.

The Ship Security Assessment (SSA) should consider the continuing relevance of the existing security measures and guidance, procedures and operations, under both routine and emergency conditions and should determine security guidance relevant to:

- Restricted areas;
- Response procedures to fire or other emergency conditions;
- The level of supervision of the ship's personnel, passengers, visitors, vendors, repair technicians, dock workers etc;
- The frequency and effectiveness of security patrols;
- Access control systems, including identification systems;
- Security communications systems and procedures;
- Security doors, barriers and lighting; and
- Security and surveillance equipment and systems.

The Ship Security Assessment (SSA) should consider all possible threats, which may include the following types of security incidents:

- Damage to, or destruction of, the ship or port facility, e.g., by explosive devices, arson, sabotage or vandalism;
- Hijacking or seizure of the ship or of persons on board;
- Tampering with cargo, essential ship equipment or systems or ship's stores;
- Unauthorized access or used, including presence of stowaways;
- Smuggling weapons or equipment, including weapons of mass destruction;
- Use of the ship to carry those intending to cause a security incident and/or their equipment;
- Use of the ship itself as a weapon or as a means to cause damage or destruction;
- Attacks from seaward whilst at berth or at anchor; and
- Attacks whilst at sea.

Ship Security Plan (SSP):

All the vessel Companies shall develop, implement and maintain a functional SSP aboard its ships in compliance with SOLAS Chapter XI-2, the ISPS Code.

The SSP is developed from the information compiled in the SSA. It ensures application of measures onboard the ship designed to protect persons on board, the cargo, cargo transport units, ship's stores or the ship from all manner of risk security violations. The SSP shall be protected from unauthorized disclosure.

This Administration requires the Plan to be written in the working language or languages of the ship. If the language or languages used are not English, French or Spanish, a translation into one of these languages must be included, preferably English.

- The Plan must address, at least, the following (Part A 9.4 ISPS Code); measures designed to prevent weapons, dangerous substances and devices intended for use against people, ships or ports, and the carriage of which is not authorized on board the ship;
- Identification of the restricted areas and measures for the prevention of unauthorized access;
- Measures for the prevention of unauthorized access to the ship;
- Procedures for responding to security threats or breaches of security, including provisions for maintaining critical operations of the ship or ship/port interface;
- Procedures for responding to any security instructions Contracting Governments may give at Security Level 3;
- Procedures for evacuation in case of security threats or breaches of security;



Date: 26.07.2023
Page: 3 / 3

- Duties of shipboard personnel assigned security responsibilities and of other shipboard personnel on security aspects;
- Procedures for auditing the security activities;
- Procedures for training, drills and exercises associated with the Plan;
- Procedures for interfacing with port facility security activities;
- Procedures for the periodic review and updating of the Plan;
- Procedures for reporting security incidents;
- Identification of the Ship Security Officer (SSO);
- Identification of the CSO including 24-hour contact details;
- Procedures to ensure the inspection, testing, calibration, and maintenance of security equipment provided on board, if any;
- Frequency of testing or calibration of security equipment provided on board, if any;
- Identification of the locations where the ship security alert system activation points are provided (this information should be kept elsewhere on board in a document known to the master, the SSO and other shipboard personnel as decided by the Company);
- Procedures, instructions and guidance on the use of the ship security alert system, including testing, activation, deactivation, resetting, and procedures to limit false alerts.

To comply with this requirement, we kindly request all Shipowners, Agents, and Surveyors to take the following actions:

Shipowners:

Review and ensure that the Ship Security Plans (SSPs) for all vessels under VEGA Register under your ownership are up to date and in adherence to the latest international maritime security regulations.
Submit the SSP to ssp@vegaregister.com. In the email subject line, please mention the vessel name and registration number for easy identification.

Agents:

Collaborate with respective Shipowners and ensure that the Ship Security Plan (SSP) for the vessels you represent are accurate and comply with the required standards.
Coordinate with the Shipowners to facilitate the timely submission of SSP to ssp@vegaregister.com.

Surveyors:

During vessel inspections, verify the presence and accuracy of the Ship Security Plan (SSP) onboard each vessel under VEGA Register.
Advise the Shipowners and Agents on any necessary updates or improvements required for the SSPs.
Please note that non-compliance with this circular may lead to disruptions in vessel operations and could affect the validity of certificates issued by VEGA Register.

For any inquiries or assistance related to SSP submissions, please do not hesitate to contact us at ssp@vegaregister.com
Best regards,

Gokhan BUYUKERDOGMUS
VEGA Register

