

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS

Part B of the ISPS Code makes provision for Contracting Governments to identify a Designated Authority within Government to undertake their security duties relating to port facilities as set out in SOLAS Chapter XI-2 or part A of the ISPS Code. In the UK the Contracting Government function is exercised through the Secretary of State for Transport and the Designated Authority's functions are exercised through the Department for Transport's Transport Security Division (TRANSEC). The Flag Administration's functions are exercised by MCA. Both TRANSEC and MCA are also direct servants of the Secretary of State for Transport.

TRANSEC and MCA are responsible for testing the effectiveness of the ship security plans or port facility security plans they have approved together with any amendments to such plans.

The ISPS Code and the Amendments to SOLAS provide for Contracting Governments to set security levels and ensure the provision of security level information to port facilities within their territory, and to ships prior to entering a port or whilst in a port within their territory.

Provision is also made for Administrations to set security levels and ensure the provision of security level information to ships entitled to fly their flag.

Higher security levels indicate greater likelihood of a security incident occurring. Factors to be considered in setting the appropriate security level include:

- The degree that the threat information is credible
- The degree that the threat information is corroborated
- The degree that the threat information is specific or imminent
- The potential consequences of such a security incident.

When changes in security level occur, security-level information will be updated as the circumstance dictates.