



Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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Shipping Guidance Notice – 084(a) Cyber Security for Ships

(This Notice supersedes SGN 084)

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Master's, and Recognised Organisations

References

- IMO Resolution MSC.428(98)
- International Safety Management (ISM) Code

Introduction

Taking into account the increased presence of cyber and digital technology systems employed on board ships, IMO has via the adoption of MSC. 428(98), recognised the need for ships/owners/operators via risk assessment to identify and mitigate the possibilities of such systems becoming compromised, leading to operational, safety, and security failures.

Cyber security is not just about preventing unauthorised persons gaining access to systems and information, it also addresses the maintenance of integrity and availability of information and systems as well as supporting business continuity. Consideration needs to be given to not only protecting ship systems from physical attack, but also to ensuring that the design of systems is resilient and that appropriate reversionary modes are available in the event of compromise.

Personnel security aspects are also important. The insider threat from shore-based or shipboard individuals who may behave in a malicious or non-malicious manner cannot be ignored. Ship owners and operators need to understand cyber security and promote awareness of this subject to their stakeholders, including their shipboard personnel.

Though the IMO Resolution refers directly to those vessels and operators where the ISM Code applies, the need to address identified cyber threats and vulnerabilities is not limited to those vessels, and operators of companies and vessels to which the ISM Code does not apply are strongly advised to note the guidance available on the subject of Cyber Security, and assess their own systems against the threats apparent in the increasingly technical environment in which they operate.

Application

Gibraltar Maritime Administration will require in respect of Gibraltar Registered ships to which the ISM Code applies, that risk assessments are undertaken in relation to digital and cyber systems which could be threatened, and for mitigating measures and procedures to be developed in relation to the identified risks, which are to be implemented via the Safety Management System.

In addition, ISM Companies are to ensure cyber security objectives have been addressed within their Safety and Environmental Protection Policies.

From the 1st January 2021, ISM verifications for ISM Document of Compliance (DOC) and subsequent Safety Management Certificate (SMC) verifications conducted by the Administration or, a Recognised Organisation on behalf of the Administration, will verify that the safety management systems contain elements showing that cyber risks have been addressed.

Guidance

Guidance on cyber security on board ships may be obtained via but not limited to:

MSC-FAL.1/Circ.3

Code of Practice Cyber Security for Ships produced by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), supported by the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl)

The Guidelines on Cyber Security Onboard Ships produced and supported by BIMCO, CLIA, ICS, INTERCARGO, INTERTANKO, OCIMF and IUMI.

ISO/IEC 27001 standard on Information technology – Security techniques – Information security management systems – Requirements. Published jointly by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

*Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity (the NIST Framework).
United States National Institute of Standards and Technology*

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