

# ISPS Code - safety first

# WORLD PORT DEVELOPMENT

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# ISPS: Don't forget the ISPS Code

ISPS code port update

New requirements stipulated by the International Maritime Organisation (SOLAS 1974 Amendments) will force ports, terminals and ship companies to perform security assessments and to develop and implement security plans. These new requirements include the 'International Ship and Port Security Code' (ISPS Code), and need to be fulfilled by January 2004 and fully implemented by July 2004.

Threats of possible terrorist attacks against the United States, UK, Italy and Spain, as recently declared by Osama bin Laden, reinforced the growing fear and acknowledgement that ports today are substantially vulnerable, and present an easy entrance to, or attractive target on, the European Continent, for potential terrorists. Consequently, many port authorities have committed substantial attention and resources to establishing valuable port security systems. The heightened fears of terror attacks on ports since 9/11, and the very real concerns regarding acts of crime, illegal immigrants and trafficking of drugs and weapons, emphasise the importance of these initiatives.

According to Nicole Touati, General Manager of the Italian-based security consulting company Logan Ltd, maritime crime incidents in Italy are on the rise, drugs and alien smuggling continuously occur, and the possibility of a terror incident occurring is no longer a "fairy tale" notion. Maritime ports are aware of the negative effects and financial implications that can result, and are now rethinking how to maximise protection for their port facilities and personnel. "Anyhow, the new International ISPC Code 2002 for Maritime Security obliges them to do so", says Touati.

Italian Port Authorities are gradually recognising the importance of having effective security measures for their port facilities, in order to deter acts of crime and terror. Touati told *World Port Development* that several ports in Italy have realised the possibility of terrorism-related activities occurring along the vast coastline of the country, and intend to enhance their efforts in developing and implementing effective measures within their ports.



Two security projects for the Port of Livorno in Italy

Giuseppe Falconi, a Senior Security Advisor at Logan, is stressing that: "time is running out for ports and maritime companies to comply with the recently introduced ISPC Code regulations." According to Falconi, it is vital that all ports and maritime companies follow protocol by implementing security plans, designating security officers and training security personnel prior to July 2004: "all Italian Ports and ship owners need to roll-up their sleeves and amplify their efforts, not solely to conform to the new regulations, but mainly to protect our waterways and mainland". The Port of Livorno has realised the urgency and the true importance of maritime security, and has been the first port in Italy to adopt

*The 'International Ship and Port Security Code' (ISPS Code), needs to be fulfilled by January 2004 and fully implemented by July 2004 and according to Falconi "time is running out for ports and maritime companies to comply with the recently introduced ISPC Code regulations."*

the new mandatory security regulations in its passenger terminals, as laid down by the IMO. The port is currently executing security initiatives conducted by Logan.

## Security plan

Four months ago, the Port Authority of Livorno, in close collaboration with "Porto Livorno 2000" (the passenger terminal authority) instructed Logan to commence two integrated security projects - a Vulnerability Assessment and a detailed Security Plan - in order to review and upgrade the existing security measures in the passengers' terminal. The results produced new security systems to protect the port, the ships and the people from threats of crime and global terror.

Touati stresses the significance of preliminary analysis and planning prior to using up any investment budget on security measures, equipment or technology: "... a proper plan, based on professional security analysis, will generate an effective port security system, clear security policies and procedures and optimal integration of all port security measures. More importantly, a competent security plan ensures a minimum disturbance and disruption to the port operation and logistical activities, and maximum security within the port's budgetary constraints. As our past security projects have attested, both in Europe and in the US, professional planning maximises protection, improves operations and saves money." 