



## Security Certificates of Proficiency

To comply with the new requirements for security training and certification adopted at the Manila Conference in 2010, Transport Canada has established a procedure for issuing certificates of proficiency and security awareness.

As announced by Transport Canada, in Marine Security Operations Bulletin 2013-003, the goal of this process is to expand and enhance the recognition program for approved Ship Security Officer training, which dates from December 2007. These certificates of proficiency will be issued under the Marine Transportation Safety Regulations (MTSR).

After several delays, these new requirements linked to the certificates of proficiency have officially been in effect in Canada since January 1, 2014.

Following a meeting of the IMO Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW) held in February 2014, it was agreed that control officers' application of the port State would be postponed until July 1, 2015. It is essential to understand that these requirements are currently in effect despite the fact that application of the control measures has been postponed.

### Who must have a certificate of proficiency?

- All seafarers on board SOLAS ships engaged on an international voyage (including the United States).

### Which ships must have a security plan under the Marine Transport Safety Regulations (MTSR)?

1. All SOLAS ships engaged on an international voyage (including the United States).
2. The following non-SOLAS ships engaged on an international voyage (including the United States):
  - A vessel with a gross tonnage of 100 tons or more except for a tug;
  - A vessel carrying more than 12 passengers;
  - A tug of any tonnage engaged in towing a barge astern or alongside or pushing ahead, if the barge is carrying certain dangerous cargoes.

### **Ships (non-SOLAS) required to have a security plan**

Note that seafarers working on board non-SOLAS ships mentioned above, are not required to have a security certificate of proficiency, despite the fact that the ship is required to have a security plan under the Marine Transportation Safety Regulations (MTSR).

### **Canadian-flagged vessels engaged in voyages between Canadian ports**

Seafarers working on Canadian SOLAS or non-SOLAS ships engaged on voyages in Canadian waters between Canadian ports only are not required to have a security certificate of proficiency.



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### Safety/security training

Training title	Who is it for?	Who gives it?
Ship Security Officer (SSO) / Agent de sûreté de navire (ASN)	The person designated Ship Security Officer, generally an officer, on board a SOLAS ship engaged on an international voyage (including the United States). At least one officer must have this certification for each SOLAS ship engaged on an international voyage.	Establishments recognized under TP 10655 <i>Institut maritime du Québec</i> Duration: 21 hours
Security awareness training for ship personnel with designated security duties (SPWODSD) / Formation de sensibilisation à la sûreté au personnel ayant des responsabilités en matière de sûreté	All seafarers with specific security tasks and duties on board a SOLAS ship engaged on an international voyage (including the United States).	Establishments recognized under TP 10655 <i>Institut maritime du Québec</i> Duration: 12 hours
Security awareness training for ship personnel without designated security duties (SPWODSD) / Formation de sensibilisation à la sûreté au personnel n'ayant pas de responsabilités en matière de sûreté	All seafarers on board a SOLAS ship engaged on an international voyage (including the United States), even those without designated security duties.	Establishments recognized under TP 10655 Duration: 6 hours
Security awareness training	All persons other than passengers navigating on board a SOLAS ship engaged on an international voyage (including the United States).  ** For non-SOLAS ships required to have a security plan, all persons other than passengers must have received this awareness training.	Security awareness training is offered on board ship by the Ship Security Officer and does not require a certificate of proficiency.



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### Requirements for obtaining a certificate of proficiency

Requirements / Certificate of proficiency	Ship Security Officer (SSO)	Security awareness training for ship personnel with designated security duties (SPWSD)	Security awareness training for ship personnel without designated security duties (SPWODSD)
Be a permanent Canadian resident	✓	✓	✓
Be at least 18 years of age	✓	✓	✓
Have a valid marine medical certificate	✓	✓	✓
Provide the required training certificate (security awareness) issued by a recognized establishment	✓ The Ship Security Officer's training certificate must have been issued after January 1, 2008 by a recognized establishment.	✓ or meet the requirements of the transitional provision no later than June 30, 2014	✓ or meet the requirements of the transitional provision no later than June 30, 2014
Have at least 12 months of sea service	✓		

### Transitional provision for obtaining a certificate of proficiency

Transport Canada confirms that the certificates of proficiency required for ship personnel with designated security responsibilities (SPWSD) and for ship personnel without designated security responsibilities (SPWODSD) can be obtained under a transitional provision of the STCW Convention allowing the security operations carried out to be recognized along with security-related experience acquired aboard ships before January 1, 2014, rather than after having taken approved training. To avail himself of this transitional provision, the candidate must have met the following criteria no later than June 30, 2014:

- Have begun his sea service before January 1, 2012;
- Have accumulated no fewer than 6 months of sea service (all types) in the three years preceding January 1, 2014;
- Be a permanent Canadian resident;
- Be 18 years old;

- Have a valid medical certificate;
- Submit form 86-0065, *Testimonial of Security Duties Performed*. The form must be duly completed, dated, signed and stamped by the Captain or authorized representative.

### Certificates of proficiency - expiry date

Currently, no expiry date is indicated on the different certificates. Note that someone who, in the past, obtained a certificate of proficiency as Ship Security Officer is not required to exchange his certificate under the STCW 2010 Convention.

In concluding, we would like to thank Denis Bélanger of Transport Canada for his outstanding collaboration. We invite you to read our upcoming columns and tell us what regulation-related subjects you would like to learn more about. The CSMOIM team wishes you an excellent navigation season.