Transport Canada Transports Canada

MARINE SECURITY OPERATIONS BULLETIN

No: 2025-003

Certificates of Proficiency in Security for Cadets

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify requirements related to Certificates of Proficiency (CoP) for students in an approved Canadian Cadet Training Program serving on board a Canadian SOLAS vessel. The cadets are not required to hold a certificate of proficiency in security unless engaged on an international voyage in countries outside of the United States (U.S.). Canada has a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. whereby we recognize each other's regimes with respect to safe manning documents and decisions regarding vessel personnel.

BACKGROUND

Part 2 of the Marine Transportation Security Regulations (MTSRs) requires a member of the vessel personnel without security responsibilities on a Canadian flagged SOLAS ship to hold a *Certificate of proficiency as a member of the vessel personnel without security responsibilities.*

Paragraph 214(1)(a) states that:

A member of the vessel personnel without security responsibilities on a SOLAS ship shall hold:

(a) in the case of a SOLAS ship that is entitled to fly the Canadian flag, a certificate of proficiency as a member of the vessel personnel without security responsibilities issued under Part 8.

Subsection 801(1) of the MTSR restricts the issuance of a CoP to a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident as defined in subsection 2(1) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA).

MTSR 801 (1) The Minister shall issue a certificate of proficiency to a person if

- **(d)** the person provides proof that he or she is a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident as defined in subsection 2(1) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*;

IRPA 2 (1) The definitions in this subsection apply in this Act.

permanent resident *means a person who has acquired permanent resident status and has not subsequently lost that status under section 46. (résident permanent)*

*A cadet is a student enrolled in a nautical or engineering program at a TC approved training institute that is working on board a vessel to fulfill sea service requirements to obtain a certificate.

Canada

GUIDANCE

For the purposes of Canadian SOLAS ships a student in a Canadian Cadet Training Program is not required to have most certificates. Therefore, they would not need a certificate of proficiency for vessel personnel without security responsibilities while completing sea time as part of their program.

However, as per subsection 214(2) they do require security orientation upon joining the vessel.

- **(2)** A member of the vessel personnel without security responsibilities on a non-SOLAS ship, and a contractor engaged on the ship, shall receive security orientation that is appropriate to their duties and the amount of time that they have spent on board the ship. The security orientation shall address the following:
    - **(a)** the meanings of the different MARSEC levels, the procedures at each level and the emergency procedures and contingency plans;
    - **(b)** the recognition and detection of weapons, explosives and incendiaries, and other dangerous substances and devices;
    - **(c)** the recognition of the characteristics and behavioural patterns of persons who are likely to threaten security; and
    - **(d)** techniques that could possibly be used to violate security procedures or to circumvent security procedures, equipment or systems.

Cadets serving on board non-SOLAS vessels are not required by the MTSR to carry certificates of proficiency and are instead covered by subsection 214(2). Additionally, cadets serving on board Canadian flagged vessels that are on a domestic voyage between Canadian marine facilities are also not required to carry certificates of proficiency.

Any comments, suggestions or concerns can be addressed to the Director, Marine Security Operations by e-mail at dirops.marsec-sumar@tc.gc.ca.

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