

The ISPS CODE

ISPS is the abbreviation for "International Ship and Port Facility Security Code". It originates from the UN international maritime organisation (IMO) and is among other things developed on the basis of the terrorist attacks in the USA September 11, 2001. The objective with the ISPS code is to protect the international ship traffic by instituting a number of measures. Of course this involves the ports in Greenland.

Like most of the other countries in the world Greenland endorsed the ISPS code years ago. This leads to a number of obligations and security measures to be observed in Greenland ports. As no ports are identical the security measures vary from one port to another.



ISPS SECURITY LEVELS

The ISPS code operates with three security levels depending on the threat assessment:

Security level 1

This is the normal situation where appropriate minimum security measures are upheld. Work in the port is carried on as normal.

Security level 2

When a raised risk level is assessed extra security measures over a period are launched. Under this security level work in ports is carried on with certain reservations.

Security level 3

This security level is launched in case the risk assessment produces a need for further security measures for a limited period. This is not necessarily caused by a specific target. The central port authority is informed and all work in the port is stopped until the security level is lowered again.



WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

Personnel and users working and moving in the port must have a permission and carry a photo ID to work in an ISPS zone. For permanent ISPS zones it will be possible to organize work by taking into consideration the permanently shielded part of the port that constitutes the ISPS zone. As for temporary "on/off" facilities it may seem inconvenient that parts of the harbor to which there was free access one day is shielded on the next. However, relevant users will receive a notice prior to establishing a temporary "on/off" facility including an expected duration. This gives an opportunity for activities that normally involves the area of temporary "on/off" facility to be organized in a way that inconvenience is experienced as little as possible.



WHERE DOES THE ISPS CODE APPLY

There is a distinction between permanent ISPS port facilities and temporary “on/off” facilities. This often depends on how much international traffic is received at the port.

By permanent ISPS port facilities are meant areas in ports that are permanently and physically shielded from other areas in the port. In such places there are port facilities, access control and surveillance round the clock.

Some areas have less international traffic and thus do not necessarily have permanently and physically shielded ISPS facilities. In cases where a need for ISPS arises a temporary barricade is established as well as access control and surveillance round the clock for as long as it is required. A such temporary facility is called an “on/off” facility and will typically be established 24 hours prior to the arrival of an international ship and for as long as it is moored to the quay.



FURTHER INFORMATION

In addition, for details concerning the ISPS code reference is made to the IMO website:

http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Security/Guide_to_Maritime_Security/Pages/Default.aspx

Further information concerning the specific significance of the ISPS code for exactly your local port is available by contacting the local port authority.

NAALAKKERSUISUT
GOVERNMENT OF GREENLAND



ISPS

- maritime protection in Greenland



**Department for Municipalities, Settlements,
Periferies, Infrastructure and Housing**