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TOPIC 5: ISPS (INTERNATIONAL SHIP AND PORT SECURITY)

Explain the objectives of ISPS, and how this is managed onboard a ship.

The International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) code aims to ensure the safety and security of the personnel, property and environment at sea and in port. Both ISPS and ISM are part of the SOLAS convention. The ISPS code applies to vessels on international voyages weighing over 500GT and port facilities servicing those ships as well as drilling platforms.

The main objectives of the ISPS code include the following:

- To detect security threats and implement security measures.
- To establish roles and responsibilities concerning maritime security for governments, local administrations, ship and port industries at the national and international level.
- To collect and share security-related information.
- To provide a methodology for security assessments so as to have in place plans and procedures to react to changing security levels

Onboard the ships, the ISPS code is managed by:

- Having a ship security plan, that outlines duties and procedures.
- Having a ship security officer who is in charge of the security of the vessel and implementing the security plan.
- Having company security officers who together with the ship security officers come up with a ship security plan and are a resource for the ships to contact if needed.
- Having certain onboard equipment to use to aid in the security of the ship, such as metal detectors and access control.