

## VESSEL SECURITY OFFICER ENDORSEMENT ADDED TO STCW-95 CERTIFICATE



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The U.S. Coast Guard has implemented a new rule that requires all mariners who are designated in the position of Vessel Security Officer (VSO), also called Ship Security Officer or (SSO) on vessels subject to the STCW Convention to have a VSO endorsement on their STCW Certificate by July 1, 2009.

Students who have taken the MITAGS/PMI Vessel, Company, and Facility Security Officer (VCF) course, or its predecessor, the MITAGS/PMI Security Officer: Port, Company, and Ship (PCS) course, have met the certified training requirement of this new regulation. To obtain the endorsement, send your application and a copy of your course completion certificate to the National Maritime Center (NMC). They will re-issue your STCW-95 certificate, with the security endorsement, at no charge. For those who have taken a Security course that is not approved, you will need to take a one-day refresher course. If you have not taken a Security course, or if you cannot obtain a copy of your course completion certificate, you will need to take the regular three-day Security course.

Upcoming dates for **Pacific Maritime Institute** Security courses are as follows:

#### 2008

##### Three-Day VCF Course

- November 17-19, 2008
- December 9-11, 2008

##### One-Day Refresher Course

- November 20, 2008
- November 24, 2008
- December 8, 2008
- December 18, 2008

#### 2009

##### Three-Day VCF Course

- February 9 - 11, 2009
- April 20-22, 2009
- June 22 - 24, 2009
- August 3 - 5, 2009
- October 19-21, 2009
- December 14-16, 2009

##### One-Day Refresher Course

- February 12, 2009
- March 6, 2009

### To enroll in one of the PMI courses, please use one of the following methods:

Website: [http://www.mates.org/sec\\_vcf.html](http://www.mates.org/sec_vcf.html)

e-mail: [jpitzen@mates.org](mailto:jpitzen@mates.org)

Toll Free: 888 893-7829

To view a copy of the NMC Approved Courses List, please download the following link:

[http://www.uscg.mil/hmc/mmic\\_appcourses.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/hmc/mmic_appcourses.asp)

For those with questions relating to the new security rule, please download the following informative

FAQ link: [http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/vessel\\_safety\\_officer.asp?vso3](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/vessel_safety_officer.asp?vso3)

For additional information on custom offsite training locations or to schedule a company specific session, please contact Gregg Trunnell, Director of Business Development, (206) 838-7422

or [gtrunnell@mates.org](mailto:gtrunnell@mates.org)