

NT/ISPS/CIRCULAR No.1 of 2018.

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Sub:-Guidelines on conduct of ISPS verification audit in compliance with ISPS code -reg.

1. The Director General of Shipping (DGS) has been nominated as Designated Authority under the provisions of ISPS Code for implementation of ISPS code vide the Ministry of Shipping, directive No. SR-20013/2/2003-AG dated 4th July 2003. The DGS has been monitoring the compliance of the requirement of ISPS code in accordance with International standards.
2. During the various meeting with Port facilities of Major and Non-major Authorities, it has been noted that observation raised during the ISPS verification audit are not closed within the stipulated time and the same found to be repetitive in nature.
3. Periodic security audits are also being carried out by other Intelligence agencies of Govt. of India and the audit reports are being received by this Directorate. Even though mandates/purposes of other intelligence audits are different, it may be prudent that the observation raised in such audit need to be complied by the ports facilities.
4. Accordingly following instructions/guidelines are issued to Administration auditors conducting the Port facility security audits in accordance with the ISPS Code:
 - 4.1 Observations of repetitive nature noted during the periodic audit should be brought to the notice of Directorate General of Shipping and port Chairmen, for implementation of an effective corrective action. However, same should not be used to affect ISPS certification process unless specifically instructed by Principal Officer, who has been delegated the authority for nomination of auditors and certification vide MS Notice 15 of 2014.
 - 4.2 The report of inspection/audit conducted by other Intelligence agencies should be reviewed for any identified deficiencies/observations and closure report for the same should be requested from the PFSO. Non-closure of same may be brought to the notice of competent authority in the Directorate and port Chairmen; however, same may not be used to affect Port ISPS Certification unless specifically instructed by the competent authority in the Directorate General of Shipping.
5. This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.



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