



Fully Online
UK DfT Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) Approved
**STCW ISPS Proficiency in Designated Security
Duties For Merchant Vessels**

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About the Course

The fully online UK DfT Maritime & Coastguard Agency STCW ISPS Proficiency in Designated Security Duties (PDSD) Course, also known as a Vessel Security Duties (VSD) Course, is a mandatory training prerequisite under STCW for members of a vessels Crew or Staff who report to the Ship Security Officer and have been assigned specific security responsibilities onboard the ship.

The course equips learners with the necessary knowledge to meet mandated instruction requirements under:

- Standards for Training, Certification & Watchkeeping (STCW)
- The Merchant Navy Training Board (MNTB) KUPs
- IMO Model Course 3.26
- the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) guidelines.

Course Duration

The duration of the online Designated Security Duties (PDSD) Course is 8 hours.

The time variance is allowed to accommodate different reading speeds, but the minimum time requirement must be fulfilled along with the relevant official assessments to successfully finish the course. This is a mandatory requirement under the MCA.

Awarding Body

The online Designated Security Duties (PDSD) Course is fully approved by the UK DfT Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) and holds international recognition and acceptance.

It encompasses the 2010 Manila Amendments and aligns with the requirements of Section A-VI/6, paragraphs 6 to 8 of the STCW Convention and Code, as well as Table A-VI/6-2.



The Aim of the Course

The aim of this online Proficiency in Designated Security Duties Course, also known as Vessel Security Duties (VSD) is to give those undertaking designated security duties on board ship the essential education and training meeting the Knowledge, Understanding and Proficiency (KUP) requirements set out in STCW Table A-VI/6-2, which supports Chapter XI-2 of the annex to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974, as amended and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.



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Course Learning Outcomes

The online Proficiency in Designated Security Duties (PDSD) Course aligns with the Learning Outcomes established by the Merchant Navy Training Board [MNTB].

1. Know why ship security is important and knows the roles and responsibilities of the organisations and individuals involved.
2. Know what constitutes a security risk, threat and vulnerability to the ship, its personnel, cargo, and operations.
3. Understand the capabilities and limitations of security methods, equipment, and systems.
4. Know how to maintain the measures in a ship security plan and related requirements.
5. Maintain the effectiveness of security arrangements, procedures, and equipment at the three security levels, considering their limitations.

Vessel-Tailored Courses

The Designated Security Duties (PDSD) Course has been customised exclusively for crew and staff operating aboard Merchant Vessels, working on Offshore Wind Farms, Ferries, and Mobile Drilling Platforms.

Additionally, we also offer tailored versions of the Designated Security Duties Course designed for the Luxury Yacht Sector and Cruise Ship Sector.

Course Subjects

The PDSD Course includes the following subjects:

- The Development of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.
- Understand the relevant international conventions, codes and recommendations relating to Maritime Piracy & Armed Robbery against Shipping.
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of relevant bodies and organisations.
- The roles and responsibilities of Contracting Governments, Designated Authorities, and Recognised Security Organisations.
- The Security Roles & Responsibilities of Crew and Port Security Personnel.
- Measures and Procedures for Maritime Security [MARSEC] Levels.
- Recognition of weapons, dangerous substances, and devices.
- Recognition of persons who may pose a threat to the security of the ship.
- Identifying techniques used to circumvent security measures.
- The handling of Sensitive Security-Related Information [SSRI] and Communications.
- Identifying security threats including Maritime Piracy & Armed Robbery against Shipping.



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The fully online, STCW Proficiency in Designated Security Duties (PDSD) Course is for those seafarers undertaking security-related duties onboard a vessel with the training necessary to conduct these duties to a proficient standard.

Course Subjects Continued

- Security methods, equipment & systems.
- Security monitoring, monitoring equipment & systems.
- The Ship Security Alert System [SSAS].
- The Ship Security Plan [SSP].
- The provisions for maintaining security.
- Criteria for setting Maritime Security [MARSEC] Levels under the ISPS Code.
- Actions to prevent weapons, dangerous substances and devices being brought on board.
- Guidance and measure for Anti-Piracy and Anti-Armed Robbery.
- Responses to Emergency Situations including Maritime Piracy & Armed Robbery against Shipping.
- Physical Searches & Non-Intrusive Inspections.
- Crowd Management & Control Requirements.
- Emergency Drills & Exercises.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for attending this online PDSD Course.

Booking Your Course

Book your STCW Designated Security Duties Course at VIRSEC, where you can learn about Maritime Security Training.

If you have any questions about the course or any of our other Maritime Security Training Courses, please contact us to inquire about bulk purchasing and associated discounts.

You can also call us on +44 (0)161 763 4427 and ask for Olivia or Cathy who will happily assist you.

Course Certificate

Upon successful completion of the online course, verification of Learner ID, and the associated official Assessment, learners will receive an electronic certificate in a secure PDF format, encrypted for security.

Typically, certificates are emailed to learners within 24 to 48 hours of confirming the course results.

If the course is successfully completed on a Friday, over the weekend, or on a Bank Holiday, certificates will be sent on the next working day.



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Course Feedback

- ✓ The course was very clear and thorough. Material and questions were all relevant and applicable to my profession. [Joseph C]
- ✓ I loved how interactive and organized the course was. It is also very visually attractive and makes learning more fun and interesting. [Hayley M]
- ✓ Course slides were great and a good amount of reading per slide. The course is able to be completed smoothly even with low bandwidth. [Oliver R]
- ✓ The course is very well structured, and the platform is easy to use and a great tool for learning and developing online. The administration staff are also very helpful and very quick to respond. Overall, a great experience. [Luke G]
- ✓ Great service, easy to understand and very professional invigilation. [Dylan M]
- ✓ The course was very creative; it kept you interested. It was simple to use, and the break reminders really helped me navigate through the course especially having an immense amount of information to get through. [Tatum R]
- ✓ Organized, very easy to see through the lessons, very well explained, useful PDF information provided and professionally designed time wise for crew who might take this course throughout busy season. Thank you for providing a stress-free online course and an enjoyable experience. [Viktoria H]
- ✓ I would recommend this course to anyone needing a deeper understanding of security awareness. It is thorough and provides great films to watch if you need deeper understanding of the material. The links to websites with extra information are very helpful and will also be handy in instances where clarification and on hand references are needed. [Gabriela B]
- ✓ Materials that used is good and very informative, i really like that you make the presentation very good to understand and to follow. Thank you. for sure going to recommend this to others. [Elwin G]
- ✓ This was a professional and very well-developed course! I'm full of new knowledge and feel the examples were useful to learn more. Plenty of information and easy to use online material – well done! Thank you for a great course! [Bride P]



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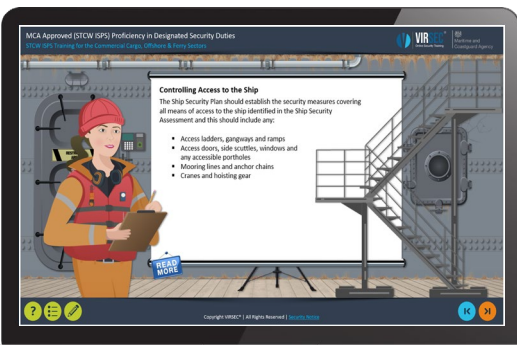
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This online course meets with Knowledge, Understanding and Proficiency (KUP) requirements set out in STCW Table A-VI/6-2, supporting Chapter XI-2 of the Annex to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974, as amended, and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

Sample Course Slides



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