



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure
and Regional Development

Baseline Competencies for Maritime Security Guards

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Objective

This paper provides guidance on the competencies required of a Maritime Security Guard (MSG) under the Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003 (MTOFSA) and the Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Regulations 2003 (MTOFSR). This paper is not a definitive summary of the specific legislative requirements for MSGs. Industry participants should in all circumstances refer to the MTOFSA and the MTOFSR for full information.

Maritime security guards

There may be significant differences between the duties and responsibilities of a security officer working at a shopping centre and that of a maritime security guard working at a security regulated port, a security regulated offshore facility or on-board a security regulated ship.

Under the MTOFSA, MSGs have been provided with similar powers¹ to those of a regular security guard. These powers allow an MSG to:

- Request people to produce identification and state reasons for being in maritime security zones;
- Restrain and detain people;
- Remove unauthorised people from maritime security zones if they do not leave when requested to do so; and
- Remove unauthorised vehicles and vessels from maritime security zones if a guard is unable to have the vehicles or vessels removed by persons in control of them.

Baseline competencies

The MTOFSR prescribe the training and qualification requirements for MSGs. The core skills are those acquired on the Certificate II in Security Operations (or equivalent) training. MSGs must demonstrate a working knowledge of the MTOFSA and the application of MSG powers provided under it.

It is essential that in appointing a MSG, consideration is given to their competency to undertake the role. This includes a consideration of their physical capability to perform their duties. The MTOFSR outlines the minimum training and qualification requirements for MSGs²:

- a) The person:
 - i. must hold at least a Certificate II in Security Operations that is in force; or

¹ Refer to sections 163, 163A, 163B, 163C, 163D and 163E of the *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003* (MTOFSA).

² See regulation 8.50 of the *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Regulations 2003*.

- ii. must hold a certificate or qualification that is in force and that is equivalent to at least Certificate II in Security Operations (for example, a Certificate II in Security (Guarding)); or
 - iii. must have undergone training and acquired experience while working as a security guard that is sufficient to satisfy the requirements for obtaining a security guard license in the state or territory where the person intends to work as a maritime security guard (the relevant state or territory);
- b) the person must hold a licence to work as a security guard, being a licence that was issued or recognised by the relevant State or Territory and that is in force;
- c) the person must have a working knowledge of the MTOFSA and MTOFSR. Including knowledge about how to restrain and detain persons in accordance with section 163 of the MTOFSA.

There is accredited training available for the Certificate II in Security Operations or equivalent courses in most States and Territories. There are currently no accredited competency standards for the additional specialist skills and knowledge required of an MSG, particularly addressing a working knowledge of the MTOFSA and MTOFSR.

The list of competencies (described in attached Tables 1 and 2) is intended to assist industry to develop or source MSG appropriate training. Training might be conducted in-house or outsourced from industry training service providers.

The competencies identified in the attached Table 1 consider the broad duties of an MSG. Including where knowledge of the MTOFSA is required.

Compliance

When assessing a maritime industry participant's compliance with the regulatory requirements for MSGs, the Office of Transport Security (OTS) will consider the following factors:

- a) The management systems in place to provide assurance to the security plan holder that MSGs have been adequately trained and assessed competent to perform their security roles.
- b) Components of the management system would include documents and registers to show:
 - i. That MSGs hold a Certificate II in Security Operations or the equivalent.
 - ii. That MSGs hold a current security guard licence valid for the State or Territory in which they are employed.
 - iii. That MSGs have successfully acquired the additional competencies identified in the attached Tables 1 & 2.
- c) Evidence of MSG qualifications and training include:
 - i. Certificates of competency for completing training courses accredited under the Australian Quality Training Framework.
 - ii. Certificates of competency for completion of training courses overseas that are accredited under an equivalent quality training regime.

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- iii. Evidence of training and assessment, under an in-house or outsourced program, with assessment processes equivalent to the Australian Quality Training Framework. This evidence might include course documentation covering presentations, lesson plans and assessment processes.
 - d) The level of knowledge displayed by MSGs when responding to questions concerning their duties and powers.
 - e) The ability of MSGs to produce a valid security guard licence when asked by OTS inspectors.

Table 1 – Competencies to be attained to determine an MSG’s working knowledge of the MTOFSA

MSG Role - Working knowledge of the MTOFSA		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the purpose and intent of the MTOFSA. • Understand the legislation that covers MSGs, including the different types of security zones, the maritime security levels and what they mean. • Understand the duties and responsibilities of an MSG. 		
Theme	Learning outcome	Competency
<i>Principles of Maritime Security / Purpose and Intent of the MTOFSA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand maritime security outcomes; • Apply maritime security outcomes to work area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of MTOFSA / MTOFSR • International maritime community and how it relates to the MTOFSA • Relationships and responsibilities • Awareness of security measures and security issues • Maritime security levels
<i>Security Awareness and Vigilance in the Maritime Workplace</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detect suspicious behaviour; • Understand purpose of maritime security zones; • Understand purpose and types of maritime security levels; • Ensure the integrity of maritime security zones and why this is important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining security vigilance • Maritime security zones - purpose of zones, types of zones, access to zones • Recognition of potential security issues • Responding to potential security issues • Detecting weapons, prohibited items and suspicious behaviour • MSIC regulations • Reporting responsibilities and requirements
<i>General Duties and Responsibilities of an MSG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the specific role of an MSG; • Understand the powers provided to MSGs, the restrictions placed on each of the provided powers, and the requirements in relation to the use of each of the provided powers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSG powers and responsibilities with specific reference to differences with powers identified through Cert II training • Limitations on powers • Requirements to be met when exercising powers • Communicating powers and responsibilities • Reporting responsibilities and requirements

Table 2 – Competencies to be attained to determine an MSG’s knowledge of the MSG specific MTOFSA powers

MSGs’ specific MTOFSA powers		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand each of the powers provided to MSGs, the restrictions placed on each of the provided powers, and the requirements in relation to the use of each of the provided powers. 		
Power	Competency	Associated tasks
<p><i>Remove unauthorised people from maritime security zones if they do not leave when requested to do so</i> [Division 5 Section 161 (c)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements to be met when exercising power; Knowledge of persons authorised to be in a maritime security zone; Reporting responsibilities and requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify him/herself as a maritime security guard to the person Inform the person of MSG authority to make request Inform the person it may be an offence not to comply with the request Request person, without proper authorisation to be there, to leave the maritime security zone Remove the person from the zone Report maritime transport or offshore facility security incidents
<p><i>Remove unauthorised vehicles and vessels from maritime security zones if a guard is unable to have the vehicles or vessels removed by persons in control of them</i> [Division 5 Section 161 (d)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements to be met when exercising power; Knowledge of vehicles/vessels that are authorised to be in zone; Reporting responsibilities and requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify if the vehicle/vessel is reasonably suspected to be in the zone without proper authorisation Make reasonable effort to have the person in control of the vehicle/vessel remove the vehicle/vessel Ensure that no more force than is necessary and reasonable to remove the vehicle/vessel is used Ensure a person is not subjected to greater indignity than is necessary and reasonable to remove the vehicle/vessel Ensure reasonable efforts are taken to avoid damaging the vehicle/vessel Make reasonable effort to notify the vehicle/vessel's owner, and persons of a kind (if any) prescribed in the MTOFSR, about the vehicle/vessel's removal and the vehicle/vessel's new location Report maritime transport or offshore facility security incidents