

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ON PORT PROTECTION AND SECURITY



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Port security is a crucial component for the efficient and safe operation of global shipping and trade activities. In this context, the training of human resources stands as a fundamental pillar to guarantee the protection of the facilities and the integrity of the operations carried out in ports. The relevance of continuous training of personnel involved in port security and the benefits that this represents both at an operational and strategic level is of crucial importance.

The nature of the port environment. Ports are points of convergence of various economic and social activities, where different actors interact: among others, workers, various authorities, shipping companies, importers and exporters, as well as security agencies. This complexity means that any failure in security procedures can have devastating consequences for port operations and in turn for public safety and the national economy.

Training as a preventive strategy. Staff training is a key element in creating a safe environment. A well-trained team can identify potential threats and respond effectively to emergency situations. Through training programs that include drills, surveillance techniques, crisis management and first aid, workers can develop critical skills that allow them to act quickly and effectively in any eventuality.



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In the context of the threat of **terrorism or smuggling**, it is essential that port personnel are familiar with suspicious activity indicators and reporting protocols, appropriate information and training not only empowers employees, but also fosters a culture of security that permeates the entire port facility.

Adaptability to new challenges. The port security environment is dynamic and as such, requires that personnel constantly receive training to stay up to date with new risks and technologies. Continuous training is important to adapt to changes in international regulations, such as those established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as well as technological advances that will modify the way port operations are managed.

Additionally, the implementation of new technologies, such as advanced surveillance systems and data analysis, is a reality in many ports. Trained personnel will not only be able to operate these technologies, but also interpret the information they generate, allowing for more informed and effective decision-making.

Impact on productivity and confidence. In addition to improving safety, training positively impacts productivity, well-trained personnel tend to make fewer errors, which translates into fewer interruptions in operations and, therefore, greater efficiency in cargo handling and associated logistics. This is particularly important in a globalized world, where delays can be costly and harm business relationships. Likewise, the implementation of robust training programs contributes to building confidence in both staff and companies operating within the port; the perception of a safe environment is crucial to attracting investment and ensuring the port's competitiveness against others in the region.

In order to strengthen and directly contribute to training strategies for port protection and security, essential for the development of an effective security culture in the port sector of the member states of the Secretariat of the **Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) of the Organization of American States (OAS)**, carried out, in June 2024, a survey on the "Identification of needs to strengthen training in port protection and security."

The survey was issued to the National Port Authorities of the CIP Member States, with the main objective of collecting data and information that would allow identifying lines of action to strengthen training in port protection and security.

The results of the survey indicated that the Port Authorities of the Spanish-speaking and English-speaking States of the CIP/OAS agree on prioritizing the needs in terms of training on port protection and security. The most important results of the survey are listed below:

- Threats to port protection and security faced by ports:
 - Drug smuggling.
 - Terrorism.
 - Computer attacks or cyber-attacks.

- Most common strategies used to address threats to port protection and security in ports:
 - Preparation and application of a protection plan.
 - Intelligence studies on protection and risk assessment.
 - Physical security and access control.

- Access control measures that have been implemented in ports to allow the entry of authorized individuals and to restrict the entry of unauthorized persons to port facilities:
 - Review and physical inspection with security personnel.
 - Safety arches.
 - Electronic identification with QR code on access credentials.



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- Surveillance technologies used in port precincts to monitor port protection and security activities in ports:
 - Video surveillance and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems.
 - Anti-intrusion alarm systems.
 - Perimeter surveillance with barriers.

- Types of training that should be provided to port protection and security personnel working in ports on the ISPS code and cybersecurity:
 - In-person courses.
 - Online courses.
 - Practices or Exercises.

Based on these results, the CIP Secretariat will continue to focus its actions to manage the implementation of training on the relevant topics in port protection and security identified in the survey, in order to strengthen and directly contribute to training strategies, fundamental for the development of an effective security culture in the port sector of the CIP Member States.

Investing in training is just that, an investment and should not be considered an expense because it not only strengthens security, but also improves the productivity and confidence of all parties involved in port operations. Therefore, it is imperative that port authorities and companies recognize training as a strategic priority in risk and security management.

By implementing strategies for diagnosing training needs, continuous training and updating of content, drills and practical exercises, promoting teamwork and communication, integration of information technologies and evaluation with constant feedback, a safer work environment can be created and prepared for any eventuality. Only through the development and continuous improvement of human capital can we respond effectively to the challenges presented by the global maritime landscape.

Below are some important aspects of human resource training in port protection and security:

1. Basic security knowledge: Includes threat identification, incident prevention and emergency response.
2. Security procedures: Know the security procedures established in the port, including access protocols, cargo inspection and incident response.



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3. Use of security equipment: Port employees must know how to use security equipment, including surveillance systems, metal detectors and personal protective equipment.
4. Effective communication: Know how to communicate effectively and efficiently in emergency situations, including the use of radios, telephones and other means of communication.
5. Emergency Drills and Exercises: Participate in emergency drills and exercises to practice your skills and learn emergency response procedures.
6. Update: Training must be continuous and updated to reflect changes in security procedures and emerging threats.
7. Evaluation and monitoring: Training must be evaluated and monitored to ensure that employees have understood and applied the acquired knowledge and skills.

Some benefits of training human resources in port protection and security include:

- Improving the safety and security of the port and its facilities.
- Reduction of the risk of incidents and accidents.
- Improved emergency response and recovery capacity.
- Increased confidence and satisfaction of employees and customers.
- Compliance with regulatory and regulatory requirements.

In summary, the training of human resources is essential to guarantee the safety and protection of the port and its facilities. Training must be ongoing, updated, and evaluated to ensure that employees have the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent and respond to security incidents.