



Commonwealth Fact Sheet



MARITIME TRANSPORT AND OFFSHORE FACILITIES SECURITY ACT 2003

Operators of ships, ports, port facilities, and offshore facilities have particular security responsibilities and may require an approved security plan

1. Regulation of maritime security in Australia

The Australian Government regulates the security of the Australian maritime transport through the [Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003](#) (MTOFSA) and the [Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Regulations 2003](#). This legislation meets obligations in response to Chapter XI-2 of the *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974* and the *International Ship and Port Facility Security Code 2003* (ISPS).

This legislation establishes a scheme to safeguard against unlawful interferences with maritime transport or offshore facilities, and sets out a framework to regulate maritime industry participants including security regulated ships, port operators, port facility operators, and offshore facilities.

The framework centres on maritime industry participants assessing their operations for security risks, and preparing a security plan which sets out measures to counter these identified risks.

Maritime industry participants are responsible for delivering security on a day-to-day basis.

2. Who provides approvals?

The Department of Home Affairs administers this legislative framework.

3. Security assessments

The MTOFSA requires that security assessments are undertaken for security regulated maritime, shipping and offshore facility operations. These form a critical part of a

successfully developed security plan. Security risks and vulnerabilities identified through this assessment will inform the mitigation measures contained in the security plan.

4. Security plans

The MTOFSA requires certain maritime industry participants to have an approved security plan. All security plans must set out, among other things:

- measures to manage risks identified in a security assessment, at different maritime security levels.
- the powers and responsibilities of officers, including maritime security guards, ship security officers, port and port facility security officers.
- procedures for incident reporting.
- measures to prevent the introduction of weapons and prohibited items.

5. More information

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For more information on the regulation of maritime security in Australia, visit the [Department of Home Affairs website](#) or phone 1300 791 581 or +61 2 5127 8995 (from outside Australia).

Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify the regulatory obligations for your project, please visit our [Online Tool](#) or contact us:

Email: mpfa@industry.gov.au