

THE SAFEST WAY TO TRAVEL: CRUISE SHIP SECURITY

The cruise industry's highest priority is to ensure the safety and security of its passengers and crew. During the past two decades, North American cruise lines have maintained the best safety record in the travel industry, while transporting more than 60 million people throughout the world. How do we do this?

A cruise ship is comparable to a secure building with a 24-hour security guard. Since vessels operate in a controlled environment, access can be strictly enforced. Every person on board, from passengers to crewmembers, is placed on an official manifest and may embark or disembark only after passing through strict security. Operating within a strict legal framework, both federal and state authorities have the right to investigate onboard crimes.

Security has always been a focus for the ICCL. With more than 7 million American passengers cruising each year, the industry takes every measure necessary to ensure that its passengers are safe and that they have an enjoyable vacation experience.

Heightened Security

Security measures have always been stringent, but increase in times of heightened alert. Cruise lines had U.S. Coast Guard-approved security plans in place years before the events of Sept. 11, 2001 and within hours of the attacks, cruise ships implemented their highest level of security. Heightened security measures are the standard today, including 100 percent passenger baggage screening and intensified screening of passenger identification. While the

industry has increased operational security, once on board, passengers are unlikely to even notice the added measures.

SECURITY MEASURES INCLUDE:

- 100% screening of all passenger baggage, carry-on luggage
- Intensified screening of passenger lists and passenger identification
- Restricted access to any sensitive vessel or terminal areas
- Stringent measures to deter unauthorized entry and illegal activity
- Notice given to U.S. Coast Guard 96 hours before entering U.S. ports, and passenger and crew identification information submitted to federal agencies
- Coast Guard-established security zone around cruise ships

What Passengers Should Expect

Our goal is to make the security process as unobtrusive as possible. Cruise passengers should be very comfortable with additional security measures they may see during their cruise vacation. This includes increased inspections of luggage and carry-on articles, additional security personnel and controls, and the use of canine inspections.

At U.S. cruise terminals, security includes screening procedures similar to those found at airports. These procedures include the use of metal detectors, and photo identification is required for all passengers and crewmembers at every point of embarkation.

Passengers should know that highly trained security personnel are employed on board every cruise ship. All ship personnel and crew must undergo similar luggage and photo identification checks. In addition, ship stores (food and supplies) are screened by x-ray, trained canines or other methods.

A Local and Worldwide Effort

The ICCL works closely with local, state and federal authorities and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to develop and strengthen security guidelines and regulations

PASSENGER HAS

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN

DURING EMBARKATION

PROCESS FOR

IDENTIFICATION.



for the protection of passengers, crew, ships and ports. In addition, we work closely with the Coast Guard, now part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in the common goal of promoting passenger security. Cruise ships and passenger terminals have formal security plans, which are reviewed and accepted by the Coast Guard.

The ICCL also interacts with other agencies of the DHS to address security measures, including: Border and Transportation Security, Bureau of



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*CRUISE PASSENGERS GO
THROUGH SCREENING
SIMILAR TO AN AIRPORT.*

Customs and Border Protection, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Transportation Security Administration and the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

This work extends to state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as local port authorities in a multi-level effort to ensure the cruise industry maintains its excellent security record.

SECURITY STEPS

- 1) An authorized cruise line agent will match a passenger to his/her luggage after travel documents are used to verify passenger identity.
- 2) Luggage is taken by ship personnel and x-rayed before being loaded onto the ship.
- 3) Photo ID is checked at the main lobby entrance.
- 4) Photo ID checked in the secure holding room lobby.
- 5) X-ray machines and metal detectors inspect passengers and carry-on luggage.
- 6) At check-in, all tickets are checked and passenger identification is positively identified.
- 7) Each passenger is issued an identification card that he/she must show when entering or leaving the ship. This may include photo identification and other identifying information.
- 8) Each time a passenger leaves or enters the ship, it is recorded through use of the identification card.

Security Regulations

The IMO and U.S. government have worked to strengthen maritime and port security regulations to prevent acts of terrorism, and through these efforts the entire maritime industry will unite under new national and international

Cruise lines require a comprehensive screening process for all prospective employees. In addition, U.S. embassy personnel conduct background checks before issuing work visas to non-U.S. citizens.

security regulations in July 2004. These protective layers will further fortify port and vessel security worldwide.

International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code – The IMO's regulations contained in this Code require all ships, ports and governments to have formal, risk assessment-based security plans to operate under a globally consistent security threat and response framework.

Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) – This U.S. legislation is closely harmonized with the ISPS Code to protect America's ports from a terrorist attack. The MTSA requires ports and vessels to assess threats, develop security plans and implement security plans and procedures.

Security plans developed and approved as a result of these international and domestic security regulations address three levels of operational security, responding to associated maritime security (MARSEC) threat levels. In the United States, the Coast Guard determines the MARSEC level.

MARSEC Level 1 – normal, everyday security measures

MARSEC Level 2 – state of heightened alert with no specific threat

MARSEC Level 3 – probable or imminent threat (not to be sustained for substantial periods of time)

Cruise lines already have a vast majority of the new requirements included in their current security plans. In addition to formal security plans with the Coast Guard, cruise lines have had designated ship security officers, company security officers, and approved terminal security plans, as well as screening of all passengers, crew and items coming onto a ship for years. The ICCL played an important role in the development of these security measures due to the cruise lines' years of experience in security procedures and practices.

The cruise industry is committed to providing a secure and safe environment for its passengers and crew. We will continue to work with all appropriate federal and state agencies to ensure the security of all passengers, crew and vessels.



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