§ 104.220  

(A) At least six months of VSO experience during the preceding three years; or  
(B) Successfully completed a VSO course that was not approved by the Maritime Administration (MARAD) on behalf of the Coast Guard. Maritime Administration approves VSO courses under section 109 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107–295.  

(ii) To be eligible to take a refresher Coast Guard-accepted VSO course, a person must present to the course provider documentary evidence that he or she meets the criteria in (d)(4)(i) of this section.  

(5) Vessel Security Officer courses meeting the training requirements in paragraphs (d)(2) and (d)(4) of this section are subject to Coast Guard acceptance under 46 CFR 10.309(a)(10)(ii).  

(6) Vessel Security Officer courses approved by MARAD on behalf of the Coast Guard under section 109 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107–295, will be accepted by the Coast Guard under 46 CFR 10.309 as meeting the requirements of paragraphs (d)(1)(iv) and (d)(2) of this section.  

(7) Persons who hold a valid “Vessel Security Officer” endorsement may serve as vessel or company personnel with security duties (33 CFR 104.220), and as all other vessel personnel (33 CFR 104.225), without meeting any additional requirements.  

(e) Responsibilities. In addition to those responsibilities and duties specified elsewhere in this part, the VSO must, for each vessel for which he or she has been designated:  

(1) Regularly inspect the vessel to ensure that security measures are maintained;  
(2) Ensure maintenance and supervision of the implementation of the VSP, and any amendments to the VSP;  
(3) Ensure the coordination and handling of cargo and vessel stores and bunkers in compliance with this part;  
(4) Propose modifications to the VSP to the Company Security Officer (CSO);  
(5) Ensure that any problems identified during audits or inspections are reported to the CSO, and promptly implement any corrective actions;  
(6) Ensure security awareness and vigilance on board the vessel;  
(7) Ensure adequate security training for vessel personnel;  
(8) Ensure the reporting and recording of all security incidents;  
(9) Ensure the coordinated implementation of the VSP with the CSO and the relevant Facility Security Officer, when applicable;  
(10) Ensure security equipment is properly operated, tested, calibrated and maintained; and  
(11) Ensure consistency between security requirements and the proper treatment of vessel personnel affected by those requirements.  

(12) Ensure TWIC programs are in place and implemented appropriately.  

References:  
§ 104.230 Drill and exercise requirements.

(a) General. (1) Drills and exercises must test the proficiency of vessel personnel in assigned security duties at all Maritime Security (MARSEC) Levels and the effective implementation of the Vessel Security Plan (VSP). They must enable the Vessel Security Officer (VSO) to identify any related security deficiencies that need to be addressed.

(2) A drill or exercise required by this section may be satisfied with the implementation of security measures required by the Vessel Security Plan as the result of an increase in the MARSEC Level, provided the vessel reports attainment to the cognizant COTP.

(b) Drills. (1) The VSO must ensure that at least one security drill is conducted at least every 3 months, except when a vessel is out of service due to repairs or seasonal suspension of operation provided that in such cases a drill must be conducted within one week of the vessel’s reactivation. Security drills may be held in conjunction with non-security drills where appropriate.

(2) Drills must test individual elements of the VSP, including response to security threats and incidents. Drills should take into account the types of operations of the vessel, vessel personnel changes, and other relevant circumstances. Examples of drills include unauthorized entry to a restricted area, response to alarms, and notification of law enforcement authorities.

(3) If the vessel is moored at a facility on the date the facility has planned to conduct any drills, the vessel may, but is not required to, participate in the facility’s scheduled drill.

(4) Drills must be conducted within one week from whenever the percentage of vessel personnel with no prior participation in a vessel security drill on that vessel exceeds 25 percent.

(5) Notwithstanding paragraph (b)(4) of this section, vessels not subject to SOLAS may conduct drills within 1 week from whenever the percentage of vessel personnel with no prior participation in a vessel security drill on a vessel of similar design and owned or operated by the same company exceeds 25 percent.

(c) Exercises. (1) Exercises must be conducted at least once each calendar year, with no more than 18 months between exercises.

(2) Exercises may be:

(i) Full scale or live;

(ii) Tabletop simulation or seminar;

(iii) Combined with other appropriate exercises; or

(iv) A combination of the elements in paragraphs (c)(2)(i) through (iii) of this section.

(3) Exercises may be vessel-specific or part of a cooperative exercise program to exercise applicable facility and vessel security plans or comprehensive port exercises.

(4) Each exercise must test communication and notification procedures,