# BERMUDA MERCHANT SHIPPING GUIDANCE NOTICE

Guidance on ship-shore emergency and Ship-shore security drills — 2025-02

## Application

Ship Owners, Managers, Officers and crew of Bermuda registered ships

## Summary

This notice is to guide Ship Owners, Managers, officers and crew of Bermuda registered ships on carrying out ship-shore emergency and security drills.

This Notice was issued on 18th December 2025.

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**(1)** While there are mandatory statutory SOLAS requirements on the periodicity within which emergency drills must be carried out and logged on board (e.g, Fire Drill, Abandon Ship Drill, Enclosed Space entry drill etc), SOLAS is not prescriptive on real time ship-shore emergency drills. The ISM Code emphasises periodic drills and exercises to ensure crew and shore staff are familiar with emergency procedures.

**(2)** Ship-shore Emergency Drills

**a.** For Bermuda registered ships, it is expected that at least one emergency drill is carried out every calendar year depicting real-time involvement of relevant external parties (MRCCs, local agents etc). The objective of this ship-shore drill is to check and improve emergency preparedness and co-ordination and communication between ship and shore. Any drill within the company's ISM Safety Management System yearly drill matrix can be used for this purpose.

**b.** The ship-shore emergency drill need not involve each ship within a fleet. Companies may choose any one of their ships to carry out this

annual ship-shore emergency drill and inform the Bermuda Shipping and Maritime Authority accordingly.

**(3)** Ship-Shore Security Drills

**a.** Ship-shore security drills must be conducted at least once each calendar year with no more than 18 months between exercises. (ISPS Code, Part A, section 13.4 and 13.5, SOLAS Chapter XI-2). Company Security Officers (CSOs) or Deputy Company Security Officers shall participate in security exercises to ensure the effective implementation and co-ordination of SSPs. Ship-Shore security drills do not have to involve each ship within a company's fleet.

**(4)** Companies are required to notify the Bermuda Shipping and Maritime Authority and the Bermuda Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) at least 3 working days in advance of their intention to carry out the ship-shore emergency/security drill.

**a.** The subject line and beginning of the email notification message should be annotated as "DRILL-DRILL-DRILL", and must be sent to:

- survey@bermudashipping.bm
- dutyofficer@marops.bm
- operations@rccbermuda.bm.