

(2) Owners or operators must implement an approved Alternative Security Program in its entirety to be deemed in compliance with either part 104, 105, or 106.

(3) Owners or operators who have implemented an Alternative Security Program must send a letter to the appropriate plan approval authority under part 104, 105, or 106 of this subchapter identifying which Alternative Security Program they have implemented, identifying those vessels or facilities that will implement the Alternative Security Program, and attesting that they are in full compliance therewith. A copy of this letter shall be retained on board the vessel or kept at the facility to which it pertains along with a copy of the Alternative Security Program.

(c) *Approval of Alternative Security Programs.* You must submit to the Commandant (G-MP) for review and approval the Alternative Security Program and the following information to assess the adequacy of the proposed Alternative Security Program:

(1) A list of the vessel and facility type that the Alternative Security Program is intended to apply;

(2) A security assessment for the vessel or facility type;

(3) Explanation of how the Alternative Security Program addresses the requirements of parts 104, 105, or 106, as applicable; and

(4) Explanation of how owners and operators must implement the Alternative Security Program in its entirety, including performing an operational and vessel or facility specific assessment and verification of implementation.

(d) The Commandant (G-MP) will examine each submission for compliance with this part, and either:

(1) Approve it and specify any conditions of approval, returning to the submitter a letter stating its acceptance and any conditions, or

(2) Disapprove it, returning a copy to the submitter with a brief statement of the reasons for disapproval.

§ 101.125 Approved Alternative Security Programs. [Reserved]

§ 101.130 Equivalent security measures.

(a) For any measure required by part 104, 105, or 106 of this subchapter, the owner or operator may substitute an equivalent security measure that has been approved by the Commandant (G-MP) as meeting or exceeding the effectiveness of the required measure. The Commandant (G-MP) may require that the owner or operator provide data for use in assessing the effectiveness of

the proposed equivalent security measure.

(b) Requests for approval of equivalent security measures should be made to the appropriate plan approval authority under parts 104, 105 or 106 of this subchapter.

Subpart B—Maritime Security (MARSEC) Levels

§ 101.200 MARSEC Levels.

(a) MARSEC Levels advise the maritime community and the public of the level of risk to the maritime elements of the national transportation system. Ports, under direction of the local COTP, will respond to changes in the MARSEC Level by implementing the measures specified in the AMS Plan. Similarly, vessels and facilities required to have security plans under part 104, 105, or 106 of this subchapter shall implement the measures specified in their security plans for the applicable MARSEC Level.

(b) Unless otherwise directed, each port, vessel, and facility shall operate at MARSEC Level 1.

(c) The Commandant will set the MARSEC Level consistent with the equivalent Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) Threat Condition and that Threat Condition's scope of application. Notwithstanding the HSAS, the Commandant retains discretion to adjust the MARSEC Level when necessary to address any particular security concerns or circumstances related to the maritime elements of the national transportation system.

(d) The COTP may temporarily raise the MARSEC Level for the port, a specific marine operation within the port, or a specific industry within the port, when necessary to address an exigent circumstance immediately affecting the security of the maritime elements of the transportation system in his/her area of responsibility.

§ 101.205 Department of Homeland Security alignment.

The MARSEC Levels are aligned with the Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS), established by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 3. Table 101.205, titled "Relation between HSAS and MARSEC Levels" in this section, shows this alignment.

TABLE 101.205.—RELATION BETWEEN HSAS AND MARSEC LEVELS

Homeland security advisory system (HSAS) threat condition	Equivalent maritime security (MARSEC) level
Low: Green	MARSEC Level 1.

TABLE 101.205.—RELATION BETWEEN HSAS AND MARSEC LEVELS—Continued

Homeland security advisory system (HSAS) threat condition	Equivalent maritime security (MARSEC) level
Elevated: Blue	
Guarded: Yellow.	
High: Orange	MARSEC Level 2.
Severe: Red	MARSEC Level 3.

Subpart C—Communication (Port—Facility—Vessel)

§ 101.300 Preparedness communications.

(a) *Notification of MARSEC Level change.* The COTP will communicate any changes in the MARSEC Levels through a local Broadcast Notice to Mariners, a Maritime Security Directive issued under section 101.405 of this part, or as detailed in the AMS Plan.

(b) *Communication of threats.* When the COTP is made aware of a threat that may cause a transportation security incident, the COTP will, when appropriate, communicate to the port stakeholders, vessels, and facilities in his or her AOR the following details:

(1) Geographic area potentially impacted by the probable threat;

(2) Any appropriate information identifying potential targets;

(3) Onset and expected duration of probable threat;

(4) Type of probable threat; and

(5) Required actions to minimize risk.

(c) *Attainment.* (1) Each owner or operator of a vessel or facility required to have a security plan under parts 104 or 105 of this subchapter affected by a change in the MARSEC Level must confirm to their local COTP the attainment of measures or actions described in their security plan and any other requirements imposed by the COTP that correspond with the MARSEC Level being imposed by the change.

(2) Each owner or operator of a facility required to have a security plan under part 106 of this subchapter affected by a change in the MARSEC Level must confirm to their cognizant District Commander the attainment of measures or actions described in their security plan and any other requirements imposed by the District Commander or COTP that correspond with the MARSEC Level being imposed by the change.

§ 101.305 Reporting.

(a) *Notification of suspicious activities.* An owner or operator required to have a security plan under