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Petrotrin's Port renews ISPS

Petrotrin has renewed its compliance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code at its Pointe-a-Pierre and Point Fortin Ports.



The ISPS Code is an amendment to the Safety of Lives at Sea Convention, 1974.

The Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO) Mr. Selwyn Johnetty described the ISPS Statements of Compliance renewal as a significant achievement for PETROTRIN and its Security Department.

“The Company cannot trade internationally if its ports are not ISPS compliant,” Mr. Johnetty explained. It was initiated by the International Maritime Organisation and adopted in 2002 for implementation by July 1, 2004. It is a two-piece set of legislation describing minimum requirements for security of ships.

The main objectives of the ISPS Code are:

- To detect security threats and take preventive measures against security incidents affecting ships or port facility used in international trade.
- To establish roles and responsibilities concerning maritime security for government, local administrations, ship and port industries at the national and international level.
- Collation and promulgation of security-related information.
- To provide methodology for security assessments so as to have in place plans and procedures to react to changing security levels.

Petrotrin's compliance with the ISPS Code, which took effect on July 1, 2004, was granted for a period of five years.

“Each year we are required to have a verification (renewal exercise) to confirm our compliance,” Mr. Johnetty explained. “We have just gotten our first verification for the period July 1st 2005 to June 30th 2006 for both ports.”

During the verification process in June, Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard officials inspected operations at the ports to confirm ISPS compliance.

Mr. Johnetty said the ISPS renewal was especially significant at Point Fortin as trade could now be conducted with ISPS compliant vessels bringing in ethanol feedstock, exporting ethanol and petroleum products. “Previously Point Fortin was compliant as a transfer station for crude oil but with the introduction of the ethanol processing plant we were upgraded,” he said. “This is definitely an achievement to enhance our international trade.”