

## **Best Practice: Monthly Facility Inspections by Designated Authority**



<b>Category:</b>	Training and Procedures
<b>Location:</b>	Costa Rica
<b>Date Observed:</b>	October 2005
<b>POC:</b>	Mr. Jorge Hernandez Ministry of Public Transportation 506.222.2025 jhernandez@mopt.go.cr

**Description:** The Designated Authority conducts monthly port facility inspections of all seven Costa Rican ports. Inspections follow the guidelines of the ISPS Code.

**Discussion:** The Designated Authority visits each port facility on a monthly basis. These visits are unannounced and focus on how the facility is implementing the ISPS Code. The actual physical security measures in place (such as intact fencing) are checked and security procedures are observed. The Designated Authority also monitors any follow-up items that were required as a result of previous visits.

**Potential Down-side:** None.

**Conclusion:** Monthly facility audits provide an excellent means to review facility compliance with the ISPS Code and a regularly scheduled visit program insures that port facilities continue to be in compliance with the international as well as appropriate national requirements. Monthly audits are also an effective means of sharing best practices between facilities.

**Cost:** Costs will vary. Oversight, however, is an inherent duty of a Designated Authority and costs incurred are part of normal government operations.