

Translation**General policy concerning the weapons, ammunition and equipment of anti-piracy security personnel on commercial vessels**

1. A security company requesting the service shall contact its local representative in the Sultanate of Oman, who in turn must send an official request to the Security Services and Safety Agency at least 48 hours before arrival of the shipment. The request should include fully detailed documentation of the shipment, personal data on the security personnel accompanying the shipment, the name of the person in charge of the shipment and details of the official handover.
2. After receiving an official request including the shipment details and the data on the security personnel protecting it, the Security Services and Safety Agency shall send an official letter to the Customs Directorate at Muscat International Airport and to other concerned customs directorates containing all the details of the shipment and the armed guards, including the dates of arrival and departure, at least 48 hours before arrival.
3. The weapons shall be transported from the aeroplane to the Customs Directorate premises in the cargo building, under strict security provided by the Airports General Security Directorate.
4. The above-mentioned local representative shall submit an official letter of guarantee to the Director-General of Customs in which he pledges to respect the laws and regulations of the country and to pay all customs duties or fines owed by the company he represents. He shall also request a recognized customs clearance office to file a customs declaration containing the details of the shipment and to present it to the customs office at the port of entry (or departure), in order for the necessary clearance measures to be taken in accordance with the relevant transit (or temporary admission) procedures.
5. Security personnel are forbidden to bring any weapons, ammunition, equipment or any banned or restricted items among their personal effects; in such an event these will be treated as contraband.
6. It is forbidden to unload any weapons, ammunition, equipment or banned or restricted goods from ships to the dockside without providing prior notification to the customs authorities concerned; the unloading must also be done in the presence of officers from the Security Services and Safety Agency and under the supervision of the port's Coastguard station.
7. The size of the shipment, i.e. the number of weapons and the quantity of ammunition and equipment, should be proportionate to the number of security guards accompanying it. This matter shall be assessed as appropriate by the customs director concerned.
8. Every shipment that enters the Sultanate of Oman shall be accompanied by the persons to whom it is addressed. No items will be permitted to remain in the country. The whole shipment must leave the Sultanate's territory after four weeks from its date of entry. If not, the Security Services and Safety Agency is empowered to impose weekly storage fees for each shipment, to a maximum duration of four weeks. The Agency is responsible for informing the Director-General of Customs of any shipment violating the eight-week storage deadline, in order for appropriate legal action to be taken.

9. The directors of the customs departments concerned and the Security Services and Safety Agency shall specially document all weapons and equipment belonging to onboard anti-piracy security personnel that enter and leave the country and must establish the necessary coordination between their services to ensure that all such items leave the Sultanate's territory.

10. The relevant official authorities shall establish the necessary mechanisms and procedures to implement this policy.
