Information on Cruise Security from Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA)

The following information was extracted from the CLIA Website (www.cruising.org).

What is CLIA?
(taken from http://www.cruising.org/industry/tech-intro.cfm)

Cruise Lines International Association was formed in 1975 in response to a need for an association to promote the special benefits of cruising and in 2006 merged with the International Council of Cruise Lines (ICCL), a sister entity created in 1990 dedicated to participating in the regulatory and policy development process of the cruise industry. CLIA exists to promote all measures that foster a safe, secure and healthy cruise ship environment, educate, train its travel agent members, and promote and explain the value, desirability and affordability of the cruise vacation experience.

CLIA is the world’s largest cruise association and is dedicated to the promotion and growth of the cruise industry. CLIA is composed of 21 of the major cruise lines serving North America and is an organization that operates pursuant to an agreement filed with the Federal Maritime Commission under the Shipping Act of 1984 and serves as a non-governmental consultative organization to the International Maritime Organization, an agency of the United Nations.

Personal Safety And Security
(taken from http://www.cruising.org/industry/personal_safety_security.cfm)

The cruise industry places the highest priority on the safety and security of its passengers and crew. With more than 12 million passengers cruising each year, the industry goes to great lengths to ensure that its passengers are safe and that they have a fun and enjoyable vacation experience.

A cruise ship is comparable to a secure building with a 24-hour security guard. Since a vessel operates in a controlled environment, access can be strictly enforced. Every person on board a cruise ship, from the captain to the cleaning staff and all guests, are placed on an official manifest. Passengers and crew may embark or disembark only after passing through security. Once the ship is underway, access is strictly limited to documented employees and fare-paying passengers.

A cruise ship’s work force is pre-screened. The U.S. State Department oversees the issuance of work visas to foreign nationals who sail with ships into U.S. ports. U.S. embassy personnel in the crew member’s country of origin conduct background checks.

Cruise lines operate within a very strict legal framework that gives both federal and state authorities the right to investigate crimes on board cruise ships. Unlike most instances of shoreside crime, the FBI has the authority to investigate and prosecute alleged crimes in international waters involving Americans.
In 1999, the member lines of the CLIA adopted a zero tolerance industry standard for crimes committed on board. In the rare instance crimes occur on board, cruise lines report and cooperate with the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

The U.S. Coast Guard has jurisdiction for inspection and enforcement of international safety and security standards for all ships calling at U.S. ports. In a 1995 study, the U.S. Coast Guard determined that the cruise industry was one of the safest modes of transportation available.

Cruising is one of the most popular vacation options, in large part because of its excellent safety record and the high level of quality service provided on board cruise ships. The cruise industry is committed to providing a secure environment for its passengers and crew. We will continue to work with all appropriate federal and state agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of all passengers and crew on board our vessels.

**Security**
*(taken from http://www.cruising.org/industry/security.cfm)*

The cruise industry's highest priority is to ensure the safety and security of its passengers, crew and vessels. The industry has an enviable record when it comes to security and safety and in 1995, the U.S. Coast Guard emphasized that record when stating that passenger vessels are among the safest mode of transportation. We find this statement to be true today due to our stringent security policies and procedures.

A cruise ship is inherently secure because it is a controlled environment with limited access. In order to maintain this secure environment, cruise lines have established strict ship security procedures that are, in part, outlined in internationally agreed-upon measures set forth by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The IMO, the United Nations body that establishes international maritime safety standards, has taken initiatives to address port and shipboard security. Most recently, worldwide security regulations known as the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code were implemented as amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). Through the IMO, these regulations established international security regulations that require all ships, port facilities and governments to have formal security plans, screening measures, access control, waterside security and communications between ships and ports. The United States implemented similar legislation in the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA). MTSA and the ISPS Code came into effect on July 1, 2004.

Prior to these international regulations, CLIA cruise line members had U.S. Coast Guard-approved security plans in place since 1996, in which many of the future requirements of the ISPS Code and MTSA were already included. These plans allowed cruise ships to implement their highest level of security within hours of the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Heightened security measures are standard for cruise ships today and include passenger screening procedures similar to those found at U.S. airports including the use of metal detectors. Security procedures include the 100 percent inspection of all passengers, their carry-on baggage
and luggage. Each crewmember holds a U.S. seafarers visa and has thus undergone a U.S. State Department background check prior to visa issuance. In addition, all crewmembers and guests are placed on an official manifest and may embark and disembark only after passing through a security checkpoint. Once a ship is underway, only documented employees and fare-paying passengers are on board. Cruise lines employ security experts and advisors and train onboard personnel in security procedures. Many additional security techniques are routinely utilized by both port and cruise line security but remain invisible to the passengers’ eye.

The cruise industry works closely with federal, state, and local agencies. CLIA has a security committee that is comprised of corporate security officers from each cruise line, many of which have military or law enforcement backgrounds. The committee meets every 60 days with law enforcement, government and intelligence agencies to discuss port and ship security, law enforcement and criminal information as well as federal intelligence assessments. These agencies include the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Transportation, Customs and Border Protection, Office of Naval Intelligence, the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI, among others.

The cruise industry is committed to providing a secure environment for its passengers. We will continue to work with appropriate authorities to assure port and vessel security.

**Cruise Line Security Update**
(taken from http://www.cruising.org/cruisenews/update.cfm)

First and foremost the cruise industry’s highest priority is to ensure the safety and security of its passengers and crew. Cruise ships are inherently secure because they are a controlled environment with limited access. Under normal circumstances security programs are stringent. But, in light of recent events, we have strengthened those programs even further. In order to maintain an effective and meaningful security environment our member lines have established strict and highly confidential security procedures that cannot, for obvious reasons, be discussed in detail.

Cruise passengers, however, should be very comfortable with the additional security measures they will see during their cruise vacation. This includes increased inspections of luggage and carry-on articles, additional security personnel and controls, and the use of canine inspections. Our member lines are working closely with local, state, federal and international authorities such as the port authorities where our ships call, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, the U.S. Customs Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Interpol. This will enhance the safety and security of everyone onboard our ships. Additionally, our member lines have Security Officers who are responsible for enforcing security procedures onboard the ship.

At U.S. cruise terminals, port security includes screening procedures similar to those found at airports. These procedures include the use of metal detectors for embarking passengers. Photo identification is required for all guests, crew members and visitors who board any of our ships. The following documents are required for all passengers boarding our member lines:
• US Citizens - A passport or a birth certificate (original or certified copy) plus a picture ID card issued by a federal, state, or local government agency are required. A voter registration card or Social Security card are not considered to be proof of citizenship. Children under 16 years of age do not require a picture ID card.
• Non-US Citizens - Valid passports and visas (when needed) are required in addition to Alien Registration Cards (ARC or "Green" cards) if an individual is a Resident Alien living in the United States. Certain Canadian and Mexican citizens may travel with alternative documentation depending on their alien status in the United States.
• For customs and immigration purposes, guests are also required to have necessary visa, passport and other travel authorization documents based upon their nationality and country of residence.