

**MTSA Regulations found at 33 CFR Subchapter H  
Part 10--.**

**#21-04 MAY 6, 2004---POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL FAQ**

**Q.** Are vessels carrying slops and residuals required to comply with MTSA?

**Ans.** A certificated vessel must implement its Vessel Security Plan (VSP) at all times. Similar to the passenger vessel that is certificated for 150 passengers but carries less than this number, a cargo vessel carrying small amounts of regulated cargo would be required to implement its entire VSP. When a vessel is in possession of a Gas Freed will it be considered to be void of cargo. When this vessel has a Gas Freed Certificate, variable security measures may be adopted for the periods of time when the vessel is out of service and not carrying regulated cargoes. In this instance, the VSP must address the variable measures that the vessel will use as well as those measures that it will use when resuming operations.

**NOTE** For further guidance, a facility owner/operator should contact their local Captain of the Port (COTP/FMSC).