

FOR PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES



FACTSHEET

The International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers' Association (ICoCA) is a multi-stakeholder initiative formed in 2013. ICoCA promotes the provision of responsible private security and strives to promote respect for human rights and humanitarian law by its Member & Affiliate companies. ICoCA serves as the oversight and implementation mechanism of the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers (the "Code"). ICoCA's mission is to raise private security industry standards and practices and to engage with key stakeholders to achieve widespread adherence to its Code globally. ICoCA's ultimate objective is to positively impact communities affected by private security.



THE ROLE OF RESPONSIBLE PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES

- Private security companies play an increasingly important role in securing clients' operations across all sectors, whether they are engaged in relief, recovery, and reconstruction efforts, commercial business operations, diplomacy, or many other activities.
- In providing these services, often in challenging and complex environments, responsible private security companies can have a positive impact for their clients, the local population in their area of operation, the general security environment, the enjoyment of human rights and the rule of law.

THE BENEFITS OF JOINING ICoCA

- Joining ICoCA helps private security companies win business. ICoCA Affiliation, Membership, and in particular ICoCA Certification, is required or preferred by a growing number of organisations and governments in their bidding processes for private security contracts around the world, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland, the United Nations (UN), Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), GE, Maersk and Philip Morris International (PMI) to name a few.
- ICoCA Members & Affiliates are recognised as industry leaders in the provision of responsible private security services becoming the preferred suppliers for a growing number of organisations with operations in complex environments.
- Certification by the Association is the gold standard in private security and a public statement that the security company's policies and systems have been independently reviewed and found to be in compliance with the International Code of Conduct.



HOW ICoCA CAN HELP YOUR COMPANY

Collaboration and cooperation between private security companies, governments, and civil society organisations improves the business operations of our Members and Affiliates by helping anticipate risks that might otherwise go unchecked. Ongoing support throughout the ICoCA network ensures better business practice, promoting peace and stability in the communities where ICoCA Members and Affiliates operate, which is good for communities, good for clients, and good for business. ICoCA facilitates continual improvement, this includes:

- Providing support to help companies bring their policies and procedures in line with the Code of Conduct and internationally recognised standards.
- Working with companies to design and develop from the ground up practical tools on a range of human rights issues to enable ease of implementation throughout the business, from the guard on the gate to the C-suite.
- Sharing best practice and lessons learned from private security companies, providing opportunities to learn from industry leaders offering a wide range of services, from large multinational companies to small, local providers, with the common goal of operating responsibly.



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RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS ON JOINING ICoCA

- All Member and Affiliate companies demonstrate commitment to respect human rights and humanitarian law as articulated in the International Code of Conduct by operating transparently and in accordance with the Code and be continually monitored by ICoCA both remotely and on the ground.
- Members and Affiliates fulfil all reporting requirements, including submission of an Annual Company Self-Assessment and actively participate in Association activities.
- Members should become certified by ICoCA within three years from joining the Association.
- All Members and Affiliates must ensure timely and full payment of application fees and annual dues.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS FOR PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES

	Affiliate	Member	Certified Member
Vote	No	Yes	Yes
ICoCA certification	Not required	Required within 3 years	Yes
Attain recognized international standard¹	Not required	Required within 3 years	Yes

¹ External certification must be issued by an independent accredited Certification Body (see below). We currently recognise the following standards:

- PSC.1 – U.S. standard for companies providing security services on land.
Certification Bodies: Intertek, MSS Global
- ISO 18788 – International standard for companies providing security services on land.
Certification Bodies: Asociación de Empresas Seguras (AES), Intertek, MSS Global
- ISO 28007 – International standard for companies providing maritime security services.
Certification Bodies: LRQA, MSS Global

ICoCA also accepts certification to ISO 18788, PSC.1 and ISO 28007 – from independent accredited certification bodies that have achieved accreditation to ISO 17021 by a national accreditation body that is a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and admitted to its multilateral agreement (MLA) and have met specified competency criteria in countries where Certification Bodies cannot get accredited specifically to (standard).

