Security

The U.S Coast Guard, a branch of the Department of Homeland Security has established strict guidelines to protect the traveling public against acts of terrorism. They have created three action levels based on known or perceived threats. These levels are Maritime Security Levels (MARSEC) 1, 2 and 3. Level 1 is the day to day operation that requires a percentage of all passengers and vehicles to be screened. Along with other requirements, this percentage will rise as the MARSEC level is raised. You can expect significant delays as these levels rise. Below are the types of signs you may encounter indicating the current MARSEC level.

Various areas of the vessel are designated as restricted and can be accessed by authorized personnel only. These areas include all compartments below deck, such as the Engine room and all compartments above the passenger saloon deck, such as the Wheelhouse, also any access routes to these compartments. At each entryway to these areas you will see signs such as this:

Any instruction given by the ferry vessel crew during the trip and during loading and disembarking must be observed (49 CFR Chapter 176.89(9)).

Ferry crew members are obligated to report violations of any of the above regulations by reporting all pertinent information to the appropriate authorities. Violations may cause you to be refused passage.