



*Aarhus Port*

## Survey Association completes first-ever port facility security assessment

With less than three months to comply with the IMO's International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, the maritime community is facing one of the toughest regulatory challenges in recent memory. That's why the port authorities of Aarhus in Denmark called the Codan Trygg/Hansa's Survey Association to coordinate their efforts to comply with ISPS.

According to Lars Hendriksen, a maritime security surveyor, the project was the first of its kind for the Survey Association. "We have handled many vessel surveys for ISPS, but never an entire port facility," he says. "It was an exciting opportunity for us."

In February, 2004, Hendriksen and his partner, Frank Pedersen, moved into an apartment near the docks to begin their assessment of the Aarhus port facility, Den-

mark's biggest business port. "There are 150 companies with operations at the port and about 4,000 people who work there," says Hendriksen. "One of our greatest challenges in completing our assessment was to establish who did what and in what building."

To complicate matters, it took some time before Denmark's Ministry of Marine Traffic to state their requirements of the port facility. "To a large extent, we had to rely on our own

knowledge of the ISPS Code to complete the project," says Hendriksen. He also notes that they enjoyed close cooperation with Aarhus' port authorities, and local and national security and intelligence personnel. Working together, they were able to complete their assessment, develop a security plan, and begin training programmes.

In addition, Hendriksen and Pedersen had a lot of experience working with vessels, experience they applied to port security. "Our work with vessels enabled us to understand how ship and port security interacts," he says. "This allowed us to develop a more integrated security plan."

Despite these challenges, they completed their assessment ahead of schedule, making Aarhus the first facility in Denmark in compliance with ISPS Code. Indeed, their work has attracted the interest of several other port facilities eager to make the July 1 deadline for ISPS compliance. "Port security assessments represent a new, exciting opportunity for the Survey Association," says Hendriksen.