PASSWORD? PASSWORD

NordPass has conducted **research** according to which transport and logistics sector employees use very poor passwords to secure business accounts. The top three include the company's name, "password," and "123456." The researchers shared in a press release, "The world's wealthiest companies' employees love passwords that directly reference or hint at the name of a specific company. The full company name, the company's email domain, part of the company's name, an abbreviation of the company name, and the company product or subsidiary name are common sources of inspiration. These passwords comprise over half of the transportation and logistics list." **Jonas Karklys**, NordPass' CEO, commented, "On one hand, it is a paradox that the wealthiest companies on the planet with financial resources to invest in cybersecurity fall into the poor password trap. On the other hand, it is only natural because internet users have deep-rooted unhealthy password habits. This research once again proves that we should all speed up in transitioning to alternative online authentication solutions." According to **IBM**'s ***Cost of a Data Breach Report 2023***, stolen or compromised credentials remained the most common cause of a data breach in companies in 2022, accounting for 19%. To stay on the safe side, NordPass recommends ensuring company passwords are strong by creating random combinations of at least 20 upper- and lower-case letters, numbers, and special characters; enabling multi-factor authentication or single sign-on; critically evaluating whom to grant account credentials; and deploying a password manager/vault.



Photo: Canva

'NAVIGATING THE FUTURE: SAFETY FIRST!'

It will be the **International Maritime Organization**'s (IMO) 2024 World Maritime Theme, as its Secretary-General **Kitack Lim** proposed at the 129th meeting of the IMO Council. "This theme would allow us to focus on the full range of safety regulatory implications arising from new and adapted technologies and the introduction of alternative fuels, including measures to reduce GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions from ships as IMO strives to ensure the safety and efficiency of shipping are maintained, and potentially improved so that the flow of seaborne international trade continues to be smooth and efficient," he underscored. The Organization shared in a press release that it's working on several safety issues, such as the goal-based Code for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS Code) or the assessment of safety risks that come with the introduction of new technologies and alternative fuels, likewise the development of regulatory measures to address and mitigate those risks. Next year also marks the 50th anniversary of adopting the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.

HARBOUR MASTERS ADD WEIGHT TO A GROUP SEEKING ACTION ON CRUCIAL SAFETY ISSUES

The **International Harbour Masters Association** (IHMA) has signed a memorandum of understanding, joining the **Cargo Incident Notification System** (CINS), the **Confidential Human Factors Incident Reporting Programme** (CHIRP), the **Container Owners Association** (COA), the **International Cargo Handling Coordination Association** (ICHCA), and the **Ship Message Design Group** (SMDG) in their joint work on improving safety during the global transport and handling of goods that have the potential to cause injury to the workforce and/or damage to the environment. Thanks to the MoU, the industry bodies will be better able to coordinate data and share research and best practices across global cargo supply chains to further develop awareness throughout the freight industry amongst operators, regulators, and policymakers as to practical and effective measures to improve safety. "It is a first-class addition to have the IHMA on-side because harbour masters play a crucial role in both maritime safety and the ship-shore interface. Their leadership on navigational safety, along with an essential contribution to wider operational safety, security and environmental protection, puts them at the crossroads of the activities that the MoU partners are seeking to continuously improve," **Richard Steele**, CEO of ICHCA, said while welcoming IHMA to the initiative.

UCIRC – REVISED

Bureau International des Containers (BIC), the **International Chamber of Shipping** (ICS), and the **World Shipping Council** (WSC) have joined forces to update the **Unified Container Inspection & Repair Criteria** (UCIRC), which now includes inspection criteria for container depots and other container handover facilities to address pest contamination on and in containers. "Just as any major structural deficiencies must be repaired, any pest contaminants must be taken care of prior to the dispatch of the empty container to the shipper. The revised UCIRC make this clear and also expressly reference the recently updated **Prevention of Pest Contamination of Containers: Joint Industry Guidelines for Cleaning of Containers** by BIC, COA [Container Owners Association], IICL [the Institute of International Container Lessors] and WSC. The two publications in tandem demonstrate the commitment of the container shipping industry to play a proactive role in minimizing pest contamination via the sea container pathway," BIC, ICS, and WSC said in a press release.