

C-TPAT UPDATE – ROGERS & BROWN NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

As a validated participant in C-TPAT (Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism), Rogers & Brown is required to notify our importers of certain requirements as it pertains to the newly implemented Minimum Security Criteria for Customs Brokers. Under the new criteria, Customs Brokers are required to inform our business partner importers, whether they are a C-TPAT member or not, the importance of having supply chain security procedures in place. These procedures must be in place at the point of stuffing/loading of your goods to inspect, properly seal, and maintain the integrity of the shipping containers and trailers.

The sealing of trailers and containers, to include continuous seal integrity, are crucial elements of a secure supply chain and as such all U.S. bound containers and trailers must meet or exceed the current PAS ISO 17712 standards for high security seals. You or your business partners should also institute procedures for recognizing and reporting compromised seals to U. S. Customs Border Protection (CBP) or to the appropriate foreign authority.

There is also a seven-point

inspection process for empty containers prior to the loading of the cargo as well as a seventeen-point inspection process for all trailers/tractors (U.S. Northern and Southern border crossings).

The 7-Point Inspection Process is recommended for all containers and will verify the physical integrity of the container prior to stuffing and includes:

- Outside/Undercarriage (before entering facility)
- Inside/Outside doors
- Right Side
- Left Side
- Front Wall
- Ceiling/Roof
- Floor (Inside)

The 17-Point Tractor and Trailer Inspection Process is recommended for all trucks and trailers arriving from foreign and includes:

- Bumper
- Engine
- Tires (truck & trailer)
- Floor
- Fuel Tanks
- Cab/Storage Compart

ments

- Air Tanks
- Drive Shafts
- Fifth Wheel
- Outside/Undercarriage
- Floor
- Inside/Outside Doors
- Side Walls
- Ceiling/Roof
- Front Wall
- Refrigerated Unit
- Exhaust

These inspection procedures are designed to detect any tampering or unusual changes to the physical appearance of, or the structural and physical integrity of the contain or tractor/trailer.

We encourage all of our client importers to become C-TPAT participants. There are many reasons to become a C-TPAT participant such as a reduction in inspections, FAST lane clearance and tiered benefits. For more information regarding C-TPAT, please go to CBP's website at http://www.customs.usdtreas.gov/xp/cgov/import/commercial_enforcement/ctpat/security_criteria/.

For those C-TPAT participants who have not already done so, please email your Status Verification Interface Number (SVI #) to beth_morris@rogers-brown.com. If you have any questions regarding this article, please contact Beth Morris at (843) 958-2235 or Janice McEachern at (843) 958-2267.



We are a certified and validated member of Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism.