

# Supply Chain Security Advisement

## HIGH SECURITY SEALS

As a certified C-TPAT company, we are committed to educating all our customers on critical supply chain security issues. A secure supply chain requires the use of high security seals. We recommend that you instruct your foreign vendors, highway carriers, freight forwarders and third party logistic providers to use high security seals on all containers bound for the United States.

All high security seals used for the international transportation of products into the United States should be of the high security type as per ISO guidelines (ISO/PAS 17712, Freight Containers Mechanical Seals) adopted in May 2003.

We recommend the following procedures for the maintenance, issuance, placement and inspection of seals.

### SEAL MAINTENANCE

Verify seals received from the seal vendor for correct quantity and check of damage.

Report any shortages or overages and document any missing seals in a logbook. Store seals in a locked cabinet with no more than two keys ( one for the warehouse manager and one for a designated employee). If seals are found damaged, dispose of the seals and document it in the log.

### SEAL ISSUANCE

When a shipment is scheduled and paperwork is ready, document seal number in a logbook and issue a seal only to a designated employee for placement on the container.

### SEAL PLACEMENT

When a container has been loaded, close the container doors and place the seal on the doors. Finally, pull on the seal from opposite sides to test the integrity.

### SEAL INSPECTION

As the container leaves the facility, have a designated employee or security guard inspect the container and the seal for integrity and evidence of tampering.

Periodically re-inspect conveyances for seal matching and integrity. Immediately report any anomalies found during the inspection to CBP or the appropriate foreign authority.

We strongly recommend you forward this information to all foreign vendors, highway carriers, freight forwarders and third party logistic providers involved in the supply chain of your cargo.

### PROCEDURES

Companies must institute a procedure for recognizing and reporting compromised seals to Customs and Border Protection or the appropriate foreign authority. C-TPAT members should also report to their SCSS.



## ATTENTION



Report any abnormalities including overages and shortages to U.S. Customs and Border Protection at:

**1-800-BE-ALERT**

Please visit their website for more information and current security alerts at:

**[WWW.CBP.GOV](http://WWW.CBP.GOV)**

For further questions or comment regarding this advisement, please contact our offices at:

San Diego

Tel. (619) 232-8941

[www.pshinc.net](http://www.pshinc.net)

L.A./Long Beach

Tel. (562) 985-3456

E-mail: [tom-jenkins@pshinc.net](mailto:tom-jenkins@pshinc.net)

## Seals

The sealing of trailers and containers, as well as continuous seal integrity, is crucial to a secure supply chain. It remains a critical part of a carrier's commitment to C-TPAT.



A high security seal must be affixed to every loaded trailer and container bound for the U.S. All seals must meet or exceed the current PAS ISO 17712 standards for high security seals. For integrity purposes, only designated employees should distribute container seals.

Written procedures must stipulate how importers and highway carriers are to control seals during transit. These procedures must be clearly defined and include the following information:

- Ensuring that seals are affixed to loaded containers during transit
- Verifying whether seals are intact or exhibit evidence of tampering during transit
- Reporting any compromised seal or container to CBP or the appropriate foreign authority
- Properly documenting the original and second seal numbers
- Verifying that the seal number and location are the same as stated in the shipping documents
- Placing a second seal on a trailer and documenting the change if the first seal was removed (even by a government official) while en route to the border