

# Introduction to C-TPAT

## Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism

### What is C-TPAT?

- C-TPAT is a voluntary government-business initiative to build cooperative relationships that strengthen and improve overall international supply chain and U.S. border security. Through this initiative, CBP is asking businesses to ensure the integrity of their security practices and communicate and verify the security guidelines of their business partners within the supply chain.

### What are the potential benefits to importers of participation in C-TPAT?

- Customs publications assert that C-TPAT member importers are six times less likely to undergo a security-related cargo exam and four times less likely to be subjected to a trade-related exam based on the following 3-tier rankings:

#### **Tier 1- Certified Members**

- ✓ Meaningful Risk Score reductions resulting in fewer Security exams, lower level of random Compliance Measurement exams, and negation of most Trade Cargo Examine Selectivity
- ✓ “Front of Line” inspections
- ✓ Access to land border expedited processing (FAST)
- ✓ Potential participation in ISA (Importer Self-Assessment)
- ✓ May attend C-TPAT training seminars



## **Tier 2 - Validated Members**

- ✓ Tier 2 Validation reveals that Minimum Security Criteria have been met
- ✓ Twice the level of Risk Score reductions resulting in significantly fewer Security exams than Tier 1 members

## **Tier 3 - Validated Members**

- ✓ Tier 3 Validation reveals that security measures exceed Minimum Criteria and Security Best Practices have been adopted
- ✓ Most significant Risk Score reductions resulting in very infrequent Security exams
- ✓ Precursor to potential future “Green Lane” expedited cargo processing

### **What else do we need to know?**

- Customs has designed this initiative to allow for flexibility and the customization of security plans, based on the member’s business model
- Customs’ twin goals are Security and Facilitation
- Members must demonstrate an ongoing commitment towards strengthening their supply chains

### **Where can we get more information?**

Contact Global Transportation Services Inc

Visit Customs’ website at:

[http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/cargo\\_security/ctpat/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/cargo_security/ctpat/)



# Cargo Security Basics

- It is critical that importers ensure that security procedures are in place at the point of container stuffing
- Security procedures will include procedures to inspect, properly seal, and maintain the integrity of shipping containers and trailers
- Container integrity must be maintained to protect against the introduction of unauthorized materials and/or persons
- U.S.-bound containers should have PAS ISO 17712 high security seals affixed
- C-TPAT importer members must file entry at the port of discharge, at minimum 24 hours prior to vessel arrival, in order to receive full benefits of C-TPAT membership
- C-TPAT importer members must institute procedures for recognizing and reporting compromised seals to Customs and Border Protection or a foreign authority
- Anomalies or illegal activities related to cargo security should always be fully investigated, and reported to law enforcement agencies (including Customs) when appropriate. This includes errors, shortages or overages that create a security risk
- Global Transportation can assist in reporting anomalies and making appropriate modifications to the Customs Entry



For further information about how Global Transportation Service's Supply Chain can benefit you, please contact the following:

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