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MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT INSTITUTE (MTI)

Doc. MTI/490
2008-08-29

E only

To : **ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**
:
cc : Extended Board
: Chairman MTI
: MTI Delegates
: Working Group Sea Transport

From : René Zimmermann, Manager of the Institute

Subject : **High Security Seal**

The Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) bring attention to the existing statutory requirement, pursuant to the '911 Commission Act 2007', that all laden maritime containers in transit to the USA are required to be sealed with a seal meeting the ISO standard: ISO/PAS 17712 ([ISO/PAS 17712](#)) effective from midnight on 14th October 2008.

In general terms the above standard requires that the seal meet or exceed certain standards for strength and durability, and be clearly marked with a unique identification number. Tanker and non-standard containers e.g. open topped, are reportedly not subject to this requirement.

IMPORTANTLY the requirement also appears to cover laden maritime containers transiting (frob) or trans-shipping at U.S. ports en route to a final destination in a third country.

Laden maritime containers subject to the requirement, entering U.S. ports by vessel on or after 15th October, will be deemed to have violated the regulation if the container has not been sealed with a seal meeting the above standard. The party responsible for such containers would risk being assessed for a civil penalty for: "failure to properly seal the container".

Finally, carriers are obliged to transmit all seal numbers to CBP 24 hrs before cargo is laden aboard a vessel at a foreign port, via the Vessel Automated Manifest System (AMS).

Please find enclosed the official document CBP Dec. 08-30.

The Association Members are kindly requested to inform their members accordingly.

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