

Container Seals and Inspection

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As participants in C-TPAT (Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism), Green Worldwide Shipping strives to inform our partners about importance of cargo security. Historically cargo seals were used more frequently in international trade than for domestic shipments; however, increased security awareness has created more demand for use of seals on domestic shipments. Cargo seals have long been part of good security practices. Their principal purpose is to assure carriers, beneficial owners of cargo, and government officials, that the integrity of a shipment is intact by acting as a “tell-tale” sign of tampering. As a result of 9/11, seal technology has been improved, offering shippers a variety of options for securing their products and containers.

The sealing of trailers and containers, to include continuous seal integrity, are crucial elements of a secure supply chain, and seals used to secure loaded containers and trailers bound for the U.S. must meet or exceed the current PAS ISO 17712 standards for high security seals. Shippers and importers should be reminded that all loaded U.S.-bound containers and trailers must have a PAS ISO 17712 high-security seal affixed. US Customs requires that all partners in the supply chain must institute procedures for recognizing and reporting compromised seals to CBP or the appropriate foreign authority.

It is critical that all partners in the supply chain have security procedures in place at the point of stuffing, procedures to inspect, properly seal and maintain the integrity of shipping containers and trailers. Important are the 7-point inspection process for empty containers prior to loading the cargo, as well as the 17-point inspection process for all trailers/tractors. For more information, you can go to the US Customs website at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/cargo_security/ctpat/ or to our website at www.greenworldwide.com.

