

## C-TPAT (Customs – Trade Partnership Against Terrorism)

As certified members of the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT), Customs has asked that members convey to their business partners the importance of the proper seal affixing process and seal verification and inspection. Your company's procedures for controlling and affixing seals to loaded containers should be documented in writing.

### Seal Affixing Process:

Only designated, authorized employees should distribute and affix container seals. Unauthorized employees should never handle the container seals.

At the point of stuffing, procedures must be in place to properly seal and maintain the integrity of shipping containers. All seals should meet or exceed the current PAS/ISO 17712 standards for high security seals.

Seals should be affixed to the right door of the container on the hasp with the welded rivet. After the seal is affixed, an authorized employee should confirm the seal is secure by pulling down on it.

### Seal Inspection:

A seal inspection process should be implemented at all points along the supply chain. The V.V.T.T. Seal Inspection Process is an example of a good inspection process. The V.V.T.T. process is as follows;

- V – View seal and container locking mechanisms
- V – View seal number for accuracy
- T – Tug on seal to make sure it is affixed properly
- T – Twist and turn seal to make sure it does not unscrew

C-TPAT encourages this process to be implemented at all foreign and domestic locations along the supply chain. Procedures should also include processes for recognizing and reporting compromised seals to the appropriate authority.

### Container Inspection:

#### 7-point container inspection process

- 1)Outside / undercarriage (before entering facility)
- 2)Inside / outside doors
- 3)Right side
- 4)left side

- 5)front wall
- 6)ceiling/roof
- 7)floor (inside)

Tractor & Trailer Inspection:

17-point tractor & trailer inspection

- 1)bumper
- 2)engine
- 3)tires (truck & trailer)
- 4)floor
- 5)fuel tanks
- 6)cab/storage compartments
- 7)air tanks
- 8)drive shafts
- 9)fifth wheel
- 10)outside/Undercarriage
- 11)floor
- 12)inside/outside doors
- 13)side walls
- 14)ceiling/roof
- 15)front wall
- 16)refrigerated Unit
- 17)exhaust

Additional information is available on the C-TPAT website ([WWW.USTREAS.GOV](http://WWW.USTREAS.GOV)) or by contacting one of your C-TPAT certified partners.