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Los Angeles, California

# PUBLIC BULLETIN



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

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**Number: 07-008**

**Date: April 12, 2007**

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**Subject: Reporting Deserters, Absconders, Stowaways and Suspected Stowaway Incidents**

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## **Purpose:**

The purpose of this public bulletin is to remind all members of the trade community to report all incidents involving the presence of stowaways and/or any evidence of suspected stowaway activity, absconders or deserters to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

## **Background:**

On November 3, 2005, Public Bulletin 05-044 was issued, directing Vessel Masters and/or Agents to inform CBP of any incidents involving deserters, absconders and/or stowaways.

On June 2, 2006, Public Bulletin 06-014 was issued, directing carriers and terminal operators to inform CBP of any incidents involving stowaways.

## **Action:**

CBP has the responsibility for enforcing immigration issues at the nation's borders and ports of entry. In the event that stowaways, evidence of stowaway activity, absconders or deserters are detected by the trade community, it is imperative CBP is notified immediately. This includes the detection of stowaway activity within sea containers, a vessel's cargo holds or within waterfront facilities.

CBP Officers performing critical national security duties such as the Radiation Portal Monitor (RPM) program, Vessel Operations functions, Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement Team (A-TCET) operations and patrols have the tactical ability to immediately respond to such incidents on a 24/7 basis.

Facility and vessel security officers should incorporate standard operating procedures whereby CBP is notified immediately of such incidents. Incidents may be reported directly to CBP Officers stationed throughout the seaport or by calling the CBP Watch Commander at (562) 366-5591 or (562) 366-5570.

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Some examples of stowaway indicators include, but are not limited to, the discovery of blankets, mattresses, food wrappers, water containers, human waste, sea-containers with trap doors or any other evidence of unauthorized human presence.

Members of the trade community are encouraged to share this information with their respective employees to further enhance overall awareness levels for all stakeholders in the seaport.

If there are any questions regarding the contents of the public bulletin, please contact Donald Kusser, Section Chief, LA/LB Seaport, at (562) 366-5700.

[signed]

Todd A. Hoffman

Port Director

Los Angeles/Long Beach Seaport