



**PORT (TRADE)
INFORMATION
NOTICE**

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SUBJECT: Reminder to Report Any Evidence of Stowaway Activities

DISTRIBUTION: Vessel Operators, CES Operators, Other Concerned Parties

PURPOSE: To issue a reminder to the trade of their responsibility to report evidence of stowaway activity.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has worked diligently to create a layered enforcement approach to cargo and carrier security by implementing national targeting, the Container Security Initiative, and the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism programs. Despite efforts, on occasion stowaways are discovered aboard inbound vessels at ports of entry. It is essential that when this occurs, CBP be notified immediately, even if the stowaways are no longer present. The importance of immediate notification to CBP when any evidence of stowaway activity is discovered either onboard a vessel or within a container, such as the presence of blankets, mattresses, food, water, etc cannot be overstated.

Thank you for your continued support in strengthening the security of our nation.

Kenneth Williams
Acting Assistant Port Director
Trade Operations

DISCLAIMER: *This information has been prepared for your convenience by the Customs officers at Blaine, Washington. This material is intended to provide guidance. Recognizing that many complicated factors are involved in Customs matters, an importer may wish to obtain a binding ruling under 19 CFR Part 177. Reliance solely on this information may not be considered reasonable care. Importers are referred to Treasury Decision 97-96, which was published in the **Federal Register** of December 4, 1997, and in the **Customs Bulletin** of December 17, 1997, for in-depth information on the concept of reasonable care.*

VIGILANCE



SERVICE



INTEGRITY

ONE TEAM ★ ONE FIGHT

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION