

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
200 East Bay Street
Charleston, SC 29401



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

DATE: February 28, 2007

PORT OF CHARLESTON NOTICE NO: FY2007-13

TO: Vessel Carriers, Owners, Agents, Terminal Operators, Warehouse Proprietors, and Other Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Immediate Notification of Incidents of Stowaways or Evidence of Possible Stowaways

In order to further advance our priority mission of protecting the public from terrorists and instruments of terror, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has identified a need to reiterate the actions that should be taken upon the discovery of stowaways or evidence of stowaway activity. Although CBP and the trade community work diligently to ensure the security of cargo and conveyances, there are some cases where stowaways are discovered on vessels or at our ports. It is essential that CBP be made aware of all such occurrences in a timely manner, even if the stowaways themselves are no longer present. Timely notification of these incidents is critical to our ability to conduct a thorough investigation and to effectively mitigate any security risks.

Any entity within the supply chain that discovers stowaways or evidence of stowaways should provide immediate notification to CBP. Of particular interest would be the evidence of stowaway activities within a container, such as the presence of blankets, mattresses, food, water, etc. Notifications of stowaway incidents should be directed to the Chief Officer at (843) 579-6521.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and for your continued support in strengthening the security of our nation. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact CBP Officers Steve Talley or Regina Sullivan at (843) 579-6521.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela M. Zaresk".

Pamela M. Zaresk
Area Port Director