

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: August 13, 2007

PORT OF CHARLESTON NOTICE NO: FY2007-023

TO: All Vessel Carriers, Terminal Operators and Other Interested Parties

SUBJECT: CBP Zero Tolerance Policy - Gate-outs

Recently, CBP has seen an increase in instances where cargo targeted for terrorism or enforcement reasons has been released from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custody without authorization or examination ("gate-out"). Terminal operators and carriers have been found to be culpable in these situations.

This port notice serves as a reminder that CBP has a zero tolerance policy towards gate-out violations. Civil monetary penalties which are subject to severe mitigation guidelines will be assessed under the provisions of 19 U.S.C. 1595a(b) for the introduction of articles into the U.S. contrary to law against every person who is in any way accountable for these violations. In addition to issuance of penalties, CBP may impose additional enforcement actions to ensure high risk cargo targeted for CBP exam is not released without authorization or examination.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Assistant Port Director, Tactical Operations, Joanne Fogg at (843) 579-6507.

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

**Pamela M. Zaresk
Area Port Director**

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U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
CHARLESTON, SC