

## INFORMATION BULLETIN:

DATE: September 15, 2016

TO: Vessel Agents, Cargo Terminals, and Other Interested Parties

FROM: U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) / Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT)

SUBJECT: C-TPAT / Advanced Qualified Unlading Approval and Vessel Arrival Notification

This information bulletin is intended to provide guidance and standardization of the implementation of the C-TPAT advanced unlading process for C-TPAT sea carriers at CBP maritime ports of entry and the current vessel arrival notification procedures.

Beginning September 15, 2016, the seaports listed below will allow sea carriers who meet the eligibility requirements (see below) to apply for advanced unlading facilitation benefits. Advanced unlading will be implemented in a phased approach as follows:

- Sept. 15, 2016** – (Phase II) Additional six ports added (see issue paper for ports) Long Beach, Los Angeles, Newark, Savannah, Miami and Seattle / Tacoma
- December 15, 2016** – (Phase III) Additional ten ports added – Charleston, Houston, Jacksonville, Honolulu, Norfolk, Philadelphia, Wilmington (DE), Wilmington (NC), Boston, and San Juan
- February 2017** – (Final Implementation) Advanced unlading is implemented CBP-wide to all remaining seaports.

### **Background**

Advanced unlading will allow sea carriers in the C-TPAT program to unlade their cargo prior to CBP Officers meeting the vessel. Sea carriers must meet the advanced unlading requirements listed below prior to being granted permission by CBP to unlade their cargo:

1. Validated and in good standing partner in the C-TPAT program (sea carriers)
2. Compliant with importer security filing requirements
3. Compliant with agriculture requirements to include all required certificates
4. Crewmembers must remain onboard until formal CBP processing
5. All containers must be delivered directly to a C-TPAT terminal operator
6. Port director pre-approval

Please provide vessel arrival notification electronically through your vessel agents 24 hours in advance of arrival to include:

- Arrival date and time
- Carrier name

- Vessel name and International Maritime Organization (IMO) Number
- Voyage number
- Vessel Agency name and point of contact information
- Last foreign port
- Berth of arrival
- Requested unloading time
- Request for garbage offload
- Number of passengers/crew aboard the vessel

To request advanced unloading privileges, vessel agents must complete and submit an Application-Permit-Special-License-Unloading-Overtime Services (CBP Form 3171) with the Notice of Arrival **for every unloading at each port**. In section 9, Box “5,” add the statement, **“advanced qualified unloading approval requested.”**

Additional information concerning the advanced unloading process will be displayed on:

<https://www.cbp.gov/border-security/ports-entry/cargo-security/c-tpat-customs-trade-partnership-against-terrorism>

DISCLAIMER: This information has been prepared for your convenience by U.S. CBP. This material is intended to provide guidance. Reliance solely on this information alone may not be considered reasonable care.