



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) Technology

FACT SHEET

Overview

The priority mission of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is to detect and prevent terrorists and terrorist weapons from entering the United States at and between ports of entry while facilitating legitimate trade and travel. To address the terrorist threat, CBP employs a multi-layered enforcement strategy to help secure our borders.

Technologies

Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technology enables CBP to detect contraband (e.g., narcotics and weapons) and materials that pose potential nuclear and radiological threats. Technologies deployed to our Nation's land, sea, and air ports of entry include large-scale X-ray and Gamma-ray imaging systems, as well as a variety of portable and handheld technologies. NII technologies are viewed as force multipliers that enable us to screen or examine a larger portion of the stream of commercial traffic while facilitating the flow of legitimate trade, cargo, and passengers.

CBP currently has 309 large-scale NII systems deployed to and in between U.S. ports of entry. These systems enable CBP officers to examine cargo conveyances such as sea containers, commercial trucks, and rail cars, as well as privately owned vehicles for the presence of contraband without physically opening or unloading them. This allows CBP to work smarter and faster in detecting contraband while expediting legitimate trade and travel. In fiscal year 2012, large-scale NII systems were used to conduct more than 7.6 million examinations, resulting in more than 1,500 seizures and the interception of more than 212,000 lbs. of narcotics.

Radiation Detection

An integral part of the CBP comprehensive strategy to combat nuclear and radiological terrorism

is the scanning of all arriving conveyances and containers with radiation detection equipment prior to release from the port of entry. CBP's nuclear and radiological detection equipment includes Radiation Portal Monitors (RPM), Radiation Isotope Identification Devices (RIID), and Personal Radiation Detectors (PRD) to 329 ports of entry nationwide.

CBP currently has 1,469 RPMs deployed. Utilizing RPMs, CBP is able to scan approximately 100 percent of all mail and express consignment mail/parcels; approximately 100 percent of all truck cargo, 100 percent of personally owned vehicles arriving from Canada and Mexico; and approximately 99 percent of all arriving sea-borne containerized cargo for the presence of radiological/nuclear materials. Additionally, CBP has deployed 2,811 RIIDs and 29,345 PRDs nationwide.



Layered Enforcement

In conjunction with CBP's many other initiatives (C-TPAT, ATS, NTC, 24-Hour Rule, and CSI), the use of Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technology continues to be the cornerstone of CBP's multi-layered strategy. NII provides CBP with a significant capacity to detect illicit nuclear and radiological materials and other contraband. ■