



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

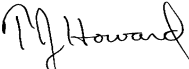
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Memorandum

Subject: INFORMATION: Notification of Survey of Cargo
Container Safety and Security at U.S. Seaports
United States Coast Guard
Project Number: 02M3005M000

Date: February 7, 2002

From: Thomas J. Howard 
Deputy Assistant Inspector General
for Maritime and Highway Safety Programs

Reply to JA-40
Attn of

To: Chief of Staff
United States Coast Guard

The Office of Inspector General is initiating a survey of cargo container safety and security at U.S. seaports. The objective of the survey is to determine whether Coast Guard's container inspection program (CIP) adequately ensures the safety and security of hazardous material freight containers shipped through U.S. seaports. Specifically, we will evaluate the adequacy of: (1) Coast Guard's policies, practices, and equipment used to inspect freight containers carrying hazardous materials; (2) training, experience, and qualification of inspection personnel; and, (3) existing program information gathering infrastructure used to identify, track, and intercept containers posing a potential safety or security risk. We will also identify, document, and analyze actions taken by Coast Guard to improve its targeting and inspection of hazardous material containers in response to recommendations issued in our 1998 audit of the CIP.

The survey will be conducted at Coast Guard Headquarters, district offices, activities, marine safety offices, and freight container terminals at selected seaports. We also plan to meet with representatives from the U.S. Customs Service, marine industry associations, shipping companies, freight forwarders, and local port authorities to discuss container safety and security issues that have arisen since September 11th.

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