FACT SHEET

Summary

The Container Security Initiative (CSI) was launched in January 2002 in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. It is part of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) layered cargo security strategy.

How It Works

CSI addresses the threat to border security and global trade posed by the potential terrorist use of a maritime container.

The program operates by deploying multidisciplinary teams to foreign seaports. These teams target and examine high-risk cargo before it is placed on vessels bound for the United States.

CSI inspections protect global trade lanes and systems between overseas points of origin and the United States. This process enables greater security through collaboration.

Key Facts About Containerized Shipping

- Each year, about 108 million cargo containers are transported through seaports around the world, constituting the most critical component of global trade.

- In fiscal year 2010, more than 10.1 million maritime shipments were reviewed in CSI Ports before arriving at United States seaports, an average of 27,600 a day.

- Almost 90 percent of the world's manufactured goods move by container, and about 40 percent arriving by ship.

- All trading nations depend on containerized shipping for the transportation of manufactured goods.

CSI Core Elements

1. Using intelligence and automated advance targeting information to identify and target containers that pose a risk for terrorism;

2. Prescreening those containers that pose a risk at the port of departure before they arrive at the POE; and

3. Using state-of-the-art detection technology to scan containers that pose a risk.

Where It Operates

CSI operates in 58 ports worldwide, in regions including North, Central, and South America; the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, the Middle East; and throughout Asia. Currently, over 80 percent of all maritime cargo imported into the United States is subject to prescreening.

International Support

The World Customs Organization (WCO), the European Union (EU), and the G8 support CSI expansion. These bodies have adopted resolutions implementing CSI security measures introduced at ports throughout the world.

For more information, visit the CBP.gov website
or contact the Office of Public Affairs at 202–344–1770.

05/11