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**MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**[MSIB # 06-09]**

**January 28, 2009**


**CONDITIONS OF ENTRY IMPOSED ON VESSELS ARRIVING TO THE UNITED STATES FROM VENEZUELA**

The Captain of the Port Sector Delaware Bay is notifying the maritime community that the United States Coast Guard announced on January 16, 2009 in the Federal Register (FR Vol. 74, No. 11, pg. 3092-3093) certain condition of entry requirements for vessels arriving to the U. S. that visited Venezuelan ports within their last five port calls on or after January 23, 2009.

As of that date, ships that call at a port in Venezuela must, at a minimum, ensure the following security measures are/were implemented for the entire Venezuelan port call; measures equivalent to security level 2 in the ship's security plan; each access point on the ship must be guarded and that the guards had total visual access to the exterior of the ship; the Ship's Security Officer executed (or attempted to execute) a Declaration of Security with the port facility; and all security actions were logged in the ship's log. The vessel's master must report all security measures that were implemented during the Venezuelan port call to the Captain of the Port at least 24 hours prior to arrival in U. S. waters. Failure to properly implement these actions may result in delay or denial of entry into the United States.

All vessels meeting the above criteria will be boarded or examined by the Coast Guard either prior to entering port or prior to conducting cargo operations to validate the required actions were taken. Based on the findings of the Coast Guard boarding or examination, vessels **may** be required to ensure that each access point to the ship is guarded by armed security guards and that they have total visibility of the exterior (both landside and waterside) of the vessel during the entire port call. The number and location of the guards must be acceptable to the Captain of the Port. For those vessels that have demonstrated good security compliance and have good documentation that the measures outlined above were implemented while in the Venezuelan port, the armed security guard requirement will normally be waived.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this bulletin please contact the Port State Control Branch staff at (215) 271-4887 or the Situational Unit Controller at (215) 271-4807.



**D. L. SCOTT**  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port Delaware Bay