



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Port of Philadelphia
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

February 23, 2006

SERVICE PORT PIPELINE # 2006-07

International Carrier Bond Requirement (APIS)- Vessels

On June 6, 2005, the Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) Final Rule became effective (19CFR 4.7b and 4.64). Pursuant to these regulations, a commercial carrier arriving into or departing from the United States is required to electronically transmit a APIS manifest to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) through an approved electronic interchange and programming format.

All international commercial carriers transporting passengers and /or crewmembers must obtain an international carrier bond and place it on file with CBP prior to entry or departure from the United States. The minimum bond amount is \$50,000.

Effective immediately the Vessel agent may indicate the operator responsible for transmitting APIS by providing the following statement on the bottom of the CBP Form 3171: **FOR APIS COMPLIANCE (NAME) (Bond Number)**

This bond designation is **ONLY** for APIS compliance. Therefore the Vessel agent may still post their bond for compliance with other requirements which will be indicated in block 14 "Bond No." Vessel owner and operating carrier should still be indicated in block 4. "Name and Nationality of Owner/Operator". This information is to be legible on the CBPF 3171 at the time of presentation at least 48 hours prior to the Vessels arrival.

If the responsible operator does not have a bond **and was not notified prior to February 1, 2006 of the Bond requirement**, the agent may authorize the use of their bond for APIS compliance by indicating their name and Bond number on the bottom of the CBP 3171. After February 1, 2006 if a vessel is scheduled to arrive a second time and does not have a valid carrier bond, CBP will advise the agents that the Master/Operator must obtain one **before** arriving in the United States.

If there are any questions concerning this pipeline, please contact Supervisory Customs and Border Protection Officer Robert Jordan at 215-597-3939.

Robert Drobish

Robert Drobish
Acting Port Director
Philadelphia, PA