



16711/PSC
D8(dp) Policy Ltr 02-09

MAR 26 2009

MEMORANDUM

From: *V. B. Gifford Jr.*
V. B. GIFFORD, JR.
CGD8 (dp)

Reply to LCDR Craig Toomey
Attn of: dpi

To: Distribution

Subj: EIGHTH DISTRICT GUIDANCE REGARDING DOWNGRADING PORT STATE
CONTROL SAFETY AND SECURITY COMPLIANCE EXAMINATIONS

Ref: (a) COMDTPUB P16700.4, NVIC 06-03, Change 2
(b) Port State Control (PSC) Targeting Matrix Information Message
(c) CGD Eight memo 16711 of 08 Jul 08

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy letter is to grant authority to all COTPs/OCMIs in the Eighth Coast Guard District to downgrade an at-sea examination to an in-port examination. This is in accordance with policy guidance contained in reference (a) and contingent upon monthly targeting information contain in reference (b).
2. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED:** Reference (c) is hereby cancelled and superseded by this memo.
3. **BACKGROUND:**
 - a. COTPs/OCMIs may downgrade an at-sea examination to an in-port examination when an at-sea examination is deemed to pose an unacceptable safety risk to boarding team personnel, or the logistics needed to conduct an at-sea examination are impractical or otherwise unavailable.
 - b. At-sea examinations that are deemed to pose an unacceptable risk or threat to the port, maritime safety or the marine environment **shall not be downgraded.**
 - c. If additional security or safety measures are needed to mitigate the risk, then such vessels should remain at sea or an isolated anchorage until such measures are implemented.
4. **ACTION:** COTPs/OCMIs shall maintain a record of all downgrades for at least three years. Subject records should contain the following:
 - a. Primary reason(s) (if there are equal high scores in two columns, record both reasons) the vessel was targeted as a Priority I and/or ISPS I (Ship Management, Flag State, Recognized Organization or Recognized Security Organization, Vessel Compliance History, Ship Particulars, or Port of Call History).

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- b. Primary reason(s) the vessel could not be boarded at sea or an anchorage, which include the following:
 - (1) risk of injury to personnel during at-sea transfers due to environmental conditions and/or inclement weather with winds, seas, and swells;
 - (2) lack of or significant delay in availability of platforms for transportation of boarding team; or
 - (3) other reasons that are thoroughly explained.
- c. Berth or anchorage (if applicable) where the vessel was examined.

5. **POINTS OF CONTACT**: Questions regarding the policy should be directed to LCDR Craig Toomey at 504-671-2156 or CWO David Maudlin at 504-671-2153.

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Dist: All Eighth District Sectors

Copy: COMDT (CG-543)
LANTAREA (Ap)