

Sector Houston-Galveston  
*Marine Safety Information Bulletin*  
MSIB 03-09

*Conditions of Entry (COE) on vessels arriving from  
Venezuelan Ports*

*January 23, 2009*

The Coast Guard has determined that Venezuela is not maintaining effective anti-terrorism measures in its ports. Actions required in paragraphs C and D of Port Security Advisory 1-09 take effect for vessels that arrived in a Venezuelan port on or after January 23, 2009 and subsequently call a U.S. port. The Venezuelan port must be one of the vessel's last 5 ports of call. These conditions of entry are necessary because the Coast Guard is unable to verify that effective anti-terrorism measures are in place for Venezuelan ports.

If a vessel arriving from a Venezuelan port requires an offshore security boarding, the goal for Sector Houston-Galveston units to conduct these boardings is 24 hours. Sector Houston-Galveston conducts offshore boardings during daylight hours only, 7 days a week. The Sector does not do night offshore boardings/exams due to the strain on resources and safety factors. There is no Captain of the Port discretion (e.g. the ability to make exams/boardings optional) for conducting the mandated Venezuelan COE boardings and examinations. The Federal Register (Vol. 74, No. 11) notice dated Friday, January 16th, 2009 and Port Security Advisory 1-09 is the primary guidance that the public should follow for compliance with these requirements.

To facilitate entry into the COTP Houston-Galveston zone and minimize delay, advanced notification and provision of documentation to the COTP on what measures the vessel took while in Venezuela are key. The documentation provided may include, but are not limited to; copies of security company contracts or payment receipts, log book entries, declarations of security or crew overtime logs. The notification and documentation should be faxed to: (713) 671-5185 or may be scanned in and e-mailed to: [uscgpschouston@uscg.mil](mailto:uscgpschouston@uscg.mil).

For questions or concerns please contact the Port State Control Branch at (713) 671- 5184 or 5181. After hours/weekends please contact the Command Center at (713) 671-5113.



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