

# *Southern Currents*



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## **Notice to the Area Port of New Orleans Trade Community**

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Date April 6, 2004

No.: 04-023

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### **SUBJECT: PAROLE OF LIGHTERING CREWMEN**

Since May 2003, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has been working to permanently resolve affording status to crew of various vessels that, for technical reasons, do not qualify for the traditional nonimmigrant crew (D) classification.

In an interim step towards addressing this issue, CBP will be affording crewmen employed aboard fishing vessels in Hawaii, launch vessels utilized in the Sea Launch program in Los Angeles, and lightering vessels operating in the Gulf of Mexico with significant public benefit paroles. The CBP field offices who service the Gulf of Mexico (i.e., Houston, New Orleans and Tampa) will allow paroles for crewmen so employed for the length of a crewmen's employment contract, not to exceed 180 days.

The conditions for parole are as follows. Applicants must:

1. Be **current** in their C-1 status. They cannot have exceeded the 29-day admission period given them upon entry into the U.S.
2. Submit a current employment contract.
3. Provide an I-418 crew list, current I-94 and passport with valid visa.
4. Submit, in writing, an agreement to immediately repatriate any crewmember(s) whose contract has been terminated/cancelled and to notify CBP of the cause for such action.

CBP will process these applications and upon approval the crewman will receive parole for the length of the contract, not to exceed 180. Additionally, these crewmen will also be approved to depart foreign at the end of their employment contract. Prior to departure, the port or field office where parole was approved, must be notified.

# *Distributed by the Steamship Association of Louisiana*

Industry questions and concerns related to this matter may be addressed to one of the following Assistant Directors, Field Operations, Immigration Programs listed below:

## **Houston Field Office AOR**

Walter Lee  
2350 N. Sam Houston Parkway East, Suite 1000  
Houston, Texas 77032  
(281) 985-6700

## **Tampa Field Office AOR**

Ron Johnson  
1624 E. 7<sup>TH</sup> Ave., Suite 301  
Tampa, FL. 33605  
(813) 228-2381

## **New Orleans Field Office AOR**

Terry Goodpaster  
423 Canal Street, Suite 337  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
(504) 670-2282

It is incumbent upon the industry to maintain their crews in a legal status condition during this interim process. CBP will follow these procedures until a permanent solution to this issue is developed. We appreciate your attention and cooperation in this matter.

Todd C. Owen  
Area Port Director  
New Orleans, Louisiana