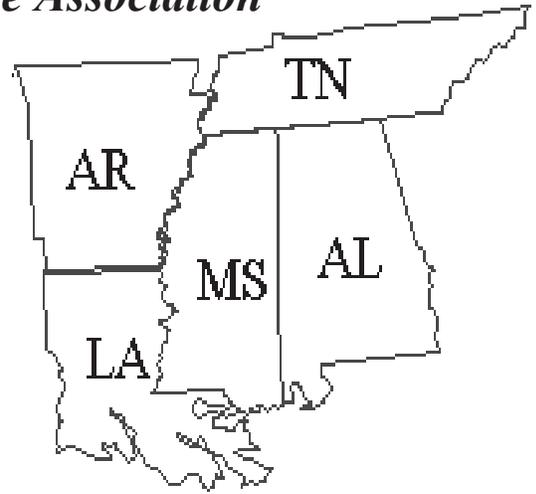


# *Southern Currents*



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

**Date August 11, 2008**

**No.: 08-004**

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**Subject:** Federal Register Notice Seal Mandate, effective Oct. 15, 2008

- Federal Register Notice, Volume 73, No.153, page 46029 dated August 7, 2008, simply serves to bring attention to the existing statutory requirement, its effective date, and that no additional requirements beyond those detailed in 6 U.S.C. § 944 are contemplated.
- **Trade Act Requirements**  
Vessel carriers should be reminded that pursuant to 19 CFR 4.7(b)(2) and 4.7a(c)(4)(xiv), they must transmit, via the Vessel Automated Manifest System, all seal numbers to CBP 24 hours before cargo is laden aboard a vessel at a foreign port. Carriers should be reminded as well that enforcement action, pursuant to 19 C.F.R. § 4.7 Advance Filing of Cargo Declaration Requirements, for failure to transmit accurate information, remains in effect.
- **Enforcement of the 6 U.S.C. § 944 Sealing Requirement**  
CBP will phase in the following penalty assessments for violation of the container sealing requirements in order to balance the needs of the business community with the government's interest in ensuring this additional level in container protection.
  - CBP will consider 6 U.S.C. 944 to be violated if a loaded container that is subject to the sealing requirements arrives by vessel at a port of entry in the United States on or after October 15, 2008, either (i) with no seal or (ii) with a seal that does not meet the ISO/PAS 17712 standard.
  - CBP may assess a civil penalty against the party responsible for the violation of 6 U.S.C. § 944 under 19U.S.C. § 1595a(b) for the attempted introduction of merchandise into the United States contrary to law.

/s/

Merlin A. Hymel, Jr.  
Assistant Port Director, Trade  
New Orleans, Louisiana