

Possible Indicators of Shipping/Conveyance Tampering

The following list of indicators is to help raise awareness for personnel handling shipping orders, paperwork, or shipping containers. This list of indicators of tampering provides personnel a reference of possible warning signs that should warrant further investigation or reporting.

Documentation/Paperwork:

- Commodities not normally imported
 - From this country/region
 - By this importer
- Requests to load trailer/container at address other than actual manufacturer/consolidator
- Unusual
 - Weights, values, quantities, countries of origin, shippers
- Missing usual documents
- Missing required documents
 - Bills of lading
 - Packing list
 - Commercial invoice
 - Commodity specific documents
- Incomplete documents
- Misspellings of company names and addresses
- Extra documents
- Missing usual data elements
- Missing required data elements
- Pen and ink changes/cross outs
- Customer or purchasing agent reluctant to offer information about end-use of the item
- Product's capabilities do not fit the buyer's line of business, such as an order for medical gloves for a small bakery
- Customer is willing to pay cash for an expensive item when terms of sale would normally call for financing
- Customer appears to have little or no business background
- Customer is unfamiliar with product's performance characteristics but still wants the product
- Routine installation, training, or maintenance services are declined by the customer
- Deliver dates are vague, or deliveries are planned for out of the way destinations
- Freight forwarding firm is listed as the product's final destination
- Shipping route is inconsistent with the stated method of shipment or destination
- Packaging is inconsistent with the stated method of shipment or destination
- When questioned, the buyer is evasive and especially unclear about whether the purchased product is for domestic use or for re-export

Cargo/Packaging:

- Resealed box
- Tape or banding on box does not match other boxes
- Open box

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- Extremely damaged corners
- Excessive tape or string
- Rigid or bulky when usually not
- Lopsided or uneven
- Protruding wires
- Oily stains, discoloration or crystallization on wrapper
- Strange or unusual labels or markings
- Strange odor
- Suspicious persons or activities in or around cargo loading area
- Arrangement of cargo has changed during shipping, beyond regular load shifting