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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
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Best Practices to Increase Security in Free Trade Zones in Ports and Tax Free Ports

Viña del Mar, Chile

Best Practices to Increase Security in Free Trade Zones in Ports and Tax Free Ports

This instrument of Best Practices is the result of a systematic Ad Hoc Expert Group on Maritime Drug Trafficking, whose purpose is to make recommendations to Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) in combating maritime drug trafficking, providing special support to enhance security at the ports of the Free Trade Zones in Ports and Tax Free Ports.

The development of this instrument does not bind the Member States and is based on the experience in fighting drug crime and criminal methods employed in free trade zones in ports and tax free ports. Following this path, represents a contribution of some of the best practices that will help Member States to reduce drug trafficking by sea and to establish better controls.

Criminal activity is governed under the same concepts of economic market and works as a criminal enterprise. Being so, it is for Member States to take the lead in detecting maritime drug trafficking and drug trafficking, taking advantage of the benefits of a free trade zones in ports and tax free ports, and generate protecting actions and adopt measures to prevent the malicious use of port facilities for international trade.

Best Practices set out in this instrument provide a methodology to evaluate the security offered at Free Trade Zones in Ports and Tax Free Ports, allowing to react against transnational criminal drug trafficking actions and to act against them effectively.

The list of Best Practice set out below does not necessarily mean the orderly execution of the first to implement the following items. All items have a practical value, but for methodological purposes we will treat as follows:

1. To have a system to verify the identity of all persons who must enter the port facilities and limit access to people outside the area.
2. Manage a proper control of vehicles.
3. Inspections of persons, personal effects, vehicles entering and leaving the commercial area.
4. Identify the doors not used regularly and close them permanently.
5. Have strict records of employees and others who work in the open area.
6. Maintain canine units to detect narcotics.

7. Establish a system of closed circuit video and secure technology.
8. To have a system of advanced information for movement of goods.
9. Establish a special and segregated area for inspection of suspicious cargo.
10. Collection and use of scanners for non-intrusive or invasive inspection.
11. Institute a program to perform routine inspections of warehouses and stores in the Tax Free Ports with canine units to verify the cargo or existing merchandise.
12. In the case of free trade zones the documentation of cargo that was declared should be analyze along with the certification of the existing cargo at the warehouse.
13. Constitute a risk analysis group to establish criminal profiles according to the type of merchandise.
14. Implement a continuous training of staff in procedures and techniques to search for narcotics and other dangerous substances.

I. STRENGTHEN SECURITY IN FREE TRADE ZONES IN PORTS AND TAX FREE PORTS:

Free Trade Zones in Ports and Tax Free Ports, within a globalized world, emerge as an incentive to trade and produce goods, facilitating trade and customs paperwork. They can be defined as special areas created deliberately by Independent States, respecting international agreements, within which a variety of economic activities, including import, export, and processing of goods, which natural and / or legal persons should operate with exceptional tax rules and custom controls established by different countries.

However, these facilities coupled with the variety and volume of goods that are traded in these areas are attractive to criminal groups engaged in drug trafficking and related crimes, which makes it mandatory to adopt mechanisms to control the activities that are developed.

These areas are attractive to organized crime because there are a lot of movement of goods whose control is difficult and, therefore, are vulnerable to the following threats: terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, Intellectual Property, Unfair Competition, Theft of Trade, trafficking, Sabotage, among others.

Under this perspective, we must endeavor to harmonize the rules for use of areas, to combat the above threats and promote the principle of social responsibility between the State and individuals, to prevent areas from being used for activities related to drug trafficking, promoting information exchange among member countries.

Therefore, it is necessary to create a model of best practices to try to harmonize the rules at international level in order to safeguard all countries of the potential threats for the Free Trade Zones in Ports and Tax Free Ports.

1. To have a system to verify the identity of all persons who must enter the port facilities and limit access to people outside the area.

Implementation of the use of an access control system to the areas can be achieved through the following mechanisms:

- Visible passes.
- Control of the areas in which there are people outside the Free Zone.
- Number of employees in uniforms.

2. Manage a proper control of vehicles.

To effectuate the control of entry and exit of vehicles to the areas, you can generate the following controls:

- Numbers in vehicles.
- Have visible registration in the transportation.
- A limited number of members within the vehicle entering.

3. Inspections of persons, personal effects, vehicles entering and leaving the commercial area.

The preventive activity and investigation of crimes, under the use of records, avoids the destruction of evidence, which may itself determine the flagrancy of the offense, thus:

- In the entrances and exits to detect weapons, drugs or illegal items, and search for technology to take photographs or capture images.

4. Identify the doors not used regularly and close them permanently.

This action will limit the number of access points to the zone, with the effect of increasing the existing controls.

5. Keep strict records of employees and others who work in the area open.

It is essential to promote the implementation of physical security activities in the common areas and companies, through:

- 24 hours Security.
- Spinning doors at entrances and exits of the area.
- Electronic passes reader.
- Use of metal detectors.
- Check of briefcases and suitcases.

6. Maintaining a unit to detect narcotics.

Having a specialized unit or an interdisciplinary group in the detection and monitoring of both narcotics and precursor chemicals in the Free Trade Zones in Ports and Ports Free Zone, will lead to direct efforts to counteract maritime narcotrafficking on strategic points of the terminal, to monitor the perimeters of the springs and the access channel for ships, as well as coverage of the area.

7. Establish a system of closed circuit video and secure technology.

Electronic surveillance in areas of common use, the development of effective media, the finger print control of the entry and exit of employees, and the computerization of business records, are highly productive tools in the fight against drug trafficking, especially if promoted by the following means:

- Closed Circuit Video system.
- Perimeter Alarm System.
- Intrusion Detection System.
- Use of radios for internal communication connected to a control center.
- Control of entrance and exit of employees system.
- Carriers Identification System.

8. To have a system of advanced information for movement of goods.

With this type of actions you can have information about the cargo twenty-four (24) hours prior to the arrival at the port and at the same time control its departure with the same amount of time, thus enabling the profiling and assessment risk, but principally will rise the verification of full compliance of the requirements that the cargo in free trade zones demand.

- This measure ensures the execution of all tasks related to the protection of the port facility.
- Allows to control the restricted areas so only authorized personal can have access.
- Facilitate the supervision of cargo handling.
- Ensure the immediate availability of the means of communications about protection.

9. Establish a special and segregated area for inspection of suspicious cargo.

In this special area where all the goods entering and leaving the area are examined, based on a risk profile, a methodology should be develop for security assessments, there should be plans and procedures to react against drug trafficking activities.

10. Collection and use of scanners for non-intrusive or invasive inspections.

This technology will allow the detection of explosives and narcotics, in the cargo that, enters, departs or passes through the port, as well as prevent and combat the use of installations and port facilities for illegal purposes, thereby affecting the enhancement of security and protection against maritime narcotrafficking.

11. Institute a program to perform routine inspections of warehouses and stores in the Tax Free Zones with canine units to verify the cargo or existing merchandise.

The implementation of mechanisms for regular monitoring and control of warehouses and stores of the companies established in the Areas, aims to prevent activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes. This can be made effective through the use of:

- Dogs to detect narcotics (passive and active).
- Dogs to patrol.
- Qualified guides for the detection of illegal substances.
- Service available the 24 hours.

12. In the case of free trade zones in ports the documentation of cargo that was declared should be analyze along with the certification of the existing cargo at the warehouse.

It's necessary to promote the analysis and monitoring of the commercial labor that reflects in each company within the Free Trade Zone in Port. The analysis suggested in this case is designed to prevent activities related to drug trafficking, in particular:

- Search for indicators or warning signs.
- Indicators with unanswered logic, will generate a higher level of risk.
- The frequency of analyzing the documents by 90% reduces the search for suspicious cargo to 10%.
- According to the results profiles can be established.

For more certainty of the analysis is essential to encourage the computerization of the records of the commercial enterprises established in the zones.

13. Constitute a risk analysis group to establish criminal profiles according to the type of merchandise.

This group will generate matrix, profiles and risk assessments of routes, from the ports of origin, transit and destination of the cargo, of the economic agents involved and the nature of it, in order to limit the actions of drug traffickers

14. Implement a continuous training of staff in procedures and techniques to search for narcotics and other dangerous substances.

It is required to encourage the inter agency training of public and private in subjects related with the traffic of illegal substances. This has the objective to assist with the help the fight against drug trafficking, especially in the following aspects:

- Knowledge of current trends and threats related to protection.
- Recognition and detection of weapons and narcotics.
- Recognition of characteristics and behavioral patterns of persons who are likely to threaten security.
- Techniques for managing and controlling crowds.
- Communications related with protection.
- Operation of equipment and protection systems.
- Testing, calibration and maintenance of protection systems.
- Techniques for inspection, monitoring and observation.
- Methods of physical searches of persons, personal effects and baggage loading.