

piece of baggage as set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, baggage of domestic origin may be forwarded in a car or compartment sealed with in-transit seals and manifested as in the case of other merchandise in transit through Canada or Mexico, as provided in subpart C of this part.

[T.D. 70-121, 35 FR 8215, May 26, 1970, as amended by T.D. 87-75, 52 FR 20068, May 29, 1987]

Subpart H—Land Border Carrier Initiative Program

SOURCE: T.D. 99-2, 64 FR 31, Jan. 4, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 123.71 Description of program.

The Land Border Carrier Initiative Program (LBCIP) is a program designed to enlist the voluntary cooperation of commercial conveyance entities in Customs effort to prevent the smuggling of controlled substances into the United States. Participation in the LBCIP requires the land or rail commercial carrier to enter into a written agreement with Customs that describes the responsibilities of participants in the LBCIP. The agreement generally provides that the carrier agrees to enhance the security of its facilities and the conveyances employed to transport merchandise. The carrier also agrees to cooperate closely with Customs in identifying and reporting suspected smuggling attempts. In exchange for this cooperation, Customs agrees to provide training to carrier personnel in the areas of cargo and personnel security, document review techniques, drug awareness, and conveyance searches. Customs also agrees that should a controlled substance be found aboard a conveyance owned or operated by a participating carrier, special administrative procedures relating to the assessment and mitigation of drug-related penalties will be followed; the degree of compliance with the terms of the agreement will be considered as an additional positive mitigating factor in any seizure or penalties decision or recommendation. Lastly, at certain high-risk locations, for the use of Line Release, imported merchandise, which otherwise qualifies for Line Release

entry (*see*, subpart D of part 142 of this chapter), must be transported over the border by carriers that participate in the LBCIP. The locations where the use of Line Release will be conditioned on participation in the LBCIP will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

§ 123.72 Written agreement requirement.

Commercial carriers desiring to participate in the LBCIP shall enter into a written agreement with Customs regarding the mutual obligations of the carrier-participant and Customs. The terms and conditions in the written agreement shall generally provide that the carrier-applicant agrees:

(a) To participate in Customs training regarding cargo and personnel security, document review techniques, drug awareness, and conveyance searches;

(b) To establish security systems at the place of business for the safe storage and handling of cargo intended to be imported into the United States; and security procedures aimed at restricting access to transporting conveyances and preventing the unauthorized lading of illegal drugs while the conveyance is en route to the United States;

(c) To conduct, to the extent allowed by law, employment and criminal history record checks on all personnel designated to participate in the LBCIP and to exercise responsible supervision and control over those personnel;

(d) To ensure that only authorized drivers and properly registered conveyances are utilized in the transportation of merchandise into the United States, and to maintain current lists of such drivers and conveyances for Customs inspection upon request;

(e) To immediately report to the appropriate port director any criminal or dishonest conduct on the part of drivers designated to participate in the LBCIP, or attempts by others to impede, influence, or coerce the carrier or drivers into violating any United States law, including Customs regulations, especially those concerned with trafficking in illegal drugs; and

(f) To notify the appropriate port director in writing by mail within 5 days of any change in legal name, business address, business principals, ownership,

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drivers, or conveyances that affects the basis for continued participation in the LBCIP.

§ 123.73 Application to participate.

To request participation in the LBCIP, the carrier-applicant must submit an application containing the information requested in this section. The application must be accompanied by two copies of a LBCIP written agreement (see §123.72 of this part; upon request, the local port director will provide copies of an unsigned written agreement) containing original signatures of corporate officers or owners of the common carrier. The application shall be prepared by the common carrier, be signed by corporate officers or owners, and submitted to the port director. If a submitted application does not provide all of the information specified in this section, the processing of the application will either be delayed or the application will be rejected. The application shall include the following information:

(a) *General business identification and site condition information.* The name and address of the commercial conveyance entity, the names of all principals or corporate officers, the name and telephone number of an individual to be contacted for further information, and a complete and detailed description of the premises where business operations are conducted, to include all working/storage areas and security features employed;

(b) *Designated driver information.* A listing of the drivers designated by the carrier who will be transporting merchandise into the U.S. The listing shall set forth the name(s), address(es), date of birth, nationality, driver's license number, and any other personal identifying information regarding the drivers listed, *e.g.*, social security number (if available), to enable Customs to conduct background checks and to aid Customs officers at the border crossing point in identifying individual LBCIP-authorized drivers;

(c) *Conveyance identification information.* A listing of the conveyances, *e.g.*, trucks and locomotives, that the carrier will utilize to transport merchandise into the U.S. The listing shall set forth the type and make of convey-

ances, country of registration and license number(s), conveyance-specific identifying markings, *e.g.*, vehicle identification numbers (VINs), and any other general conveyance identifying information, *e.g.*, weight, color, recognizable modifications, etc., to aid Customs officers at the border crossing point in identifying particular LBCIP-registered conveyances; and

(d) *Affidavit of business character.* A statement signed by the carrier-applicant which attests to each principal's or corporate officer's past and present business relations, *e.g.*, a list of past companies worked for and positions held, which fully explains the presence of any past or present crime involving theft or smuggling or investigations into such crimes, or other dishonest conduct on the part of a principal.

§ 123.74 Notice of selection; appeal of determination.

The information provided pursuant to paragraphs (b) through (d) of §123.73 shall constitute the criteria used to evaluate the competency of the carrier-applicant to participate in the LBCIP. Following Customs evaluation of the information provided, Customs shall notify the carrier-applicant in writing of Customs determination as to whether the carrier-applicant is qualified to participate in the LBCIP. In cases of selection, Customs will sign and return one of the copies of the written agreement. In cases of non-selection, the written notice shall clearly state the reason(s) for denial and recite the applicant's appeal rights under paragraph (b) of this section.

(a) *Grounds for nonselection.* The port director may deny a carrier's application to participate in the LBCIP for any of the following reasons:

(1) Evidence of any criminal or dishonest conduct involving the carrier, a corporate officer, designated drivers, or other person the port director determines is exercising substantial ownership or control over the carrier operation or corporate officer;

(2) Evidence of improper use of designated conveyances;

(3) Evidence that the written agreement was entered into by fraud or misstatement of a material fact; or