

USE OF HIGH SECURITY SEALS

SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY – CONTAINER SEALING

MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company would like to remind our supply chain partners of our policy regarding the mandatory use of International Standardization Organization (ISO) 17712 compliant High Security Seals (HSS), on all full containers for international transport by MSC.



BACKGROUND: Under the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT), full shipping containers must have high security seals properly affixed at the point of stuffing to prevent pilferage, terrorist devices, and other contraband from entering the global supply chain.

MSC POLICY: It is MSC's policy that an ISO 17712 compliant seal shall be applied at all times during transport under MSC's custody, and that all letters and digits of the HSS number shall be accurately documented on the Shipping Instructions, Bill of Lading, and Manifest.

All shipments transported by MSC capable of being sealed must be sealed by the shipper (or packer/consolidator acting on the shipper's behalf) immediately after the container is stuffed at the Shipper's premises. The High Security Seal must meet or exceed the ISO/PAS 17712:2013 standard for high security seals, as emphasized on MSC's contract of carriage (Bill of Lading), which states under Section 11.3:

The Merchant is responsible for the packing and sealing of all Merchant-packed Containers and, if a Merchant-packed Container is delivered by the Carrier with an original seal as affixed by the Merchant or customs or security control intact, or the Carrier can establish bona fide circumstances in which the original seal was replaced, the Carrier shall not be liable for any shortage of Goods ascertained upon delivery.

To protect cargo, avoid incurring costly delays and fines from authorities, and to assist the ocean carrier upon request; MSC **strongly recommends** shippers, packers, consolidators, and merchant hauler truckers acting on behalf of the Shipper's interest, take clear photographs of the following when preparing shipments for transit:

1. The cargo stuffed inside the container prior to closing the container doors
2. Container doors closed, with the container number clearly visible
3. A close-up of the seal showing the seal number legibly, prior to affixing to the container; and
4. The seal properly affixed to the inner right locking hasp or lower right locking rod cam

ENCL: Recommended Seal Placement

Enclosure to USE OF HIGH SECURITY SEALS Advisory

Recommended seal placement



Acceptable seal placement



Incorrect seal placement

