



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

MAR 23 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

FROM: Acting Executive Director (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Admissibility and Passenger Programs

SUBJECT: Expansion of Closed-Loop Cruise Ship Passenger Processing

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is expanding the closed-loop cruise ship passenger processing program to work towards uniform cruise ship inspection procedures at all CBP Ports of Entry. To facilitate legitimate travelers while maintaining maritime security, CBP is also expanding the criteria for eligible cruise voyages to include up to 200 downline/segmented-voyage passengers. Additionally, CBP will continue to coordinate with the cruise line industry to identify ways to expedite the processing of trusted traveler document holders and their family members. Implementation of the expanded closed-loop cruise ship passenger processing program is scheduled to (b) (7)(E).

(b) (7)(E)

[Redacted]

(b) (7)(E)

[Redacted] Cruise lines must continue to comply with the Passenger Vessel Services Act.

Cruise ships may also embark a maximum of 200 downline/segmented-voyage passengers at foreign ports of call during a closed-loop voyage. The carrier will separate those passengers upon arrival at the first United States port for CBP processing.

In order to participate in the closed-loop cruise ship passenger processing program, a cruise line must transmit (b) (7)(E) for all travelers, including a separate transmission for downline/segmented-voyage passengers, in accordance with CBP regulations and technical requirements.

The Port Director maintains the authority to conduct random and other enforcement inspections as appropriate for travelers on closed-loop cruises.

The Expansion of Closed-Loop Cruise Ship Inspection Procedures

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Please ensure this memorandum is disseminated to personnel within your area of responsibility. If you have any questions or require additional information, please have a member of your staff contact (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Program Manager, Traveler Entry Programs, Admissibility and Passenger Programs, at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) or (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Attachments

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Weekly Muster

Week of: Immediate

Topic: Expansion of Closed-Loop Cruise Ship Passenger Processing Procedures

References: INA § 235.1, 8 C.F.R. § 235.1, 19 U.S.C. § 1467, 19 C.F.R. 122.102, 46 U.S.C. § 55103 (Passenger Vessel Services Act), 19 C.F.R. 4.7b, 19 C.F.R. 4.50(b), 19 C.F.R. 4.64, 19 C.F.R. 4.80a.

Headquarters POC: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office: Admissibility and Passenger Programs

- In 2008, CBP implemented the closed-loop cruise ship passenger processing pilot program.
- (b) (7)(E), the Office of Field Operations (OFO) will expand the closed-loop cruise ship passenger processing program to promote uniform cruise ship inspection procedures by CBP.
- (b) (7)(E)
- CBP officers will conduct pre-departure (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
- Under closed-loop cruise ship processing, the utilization of multiple-use I-94 forms will be allowed and US-VISIT requirements can be waived.
- (b) (7)(E)
- CBP will work with cruise lines to expedite the processing of trusted traveler document holders and their family members, which may include front line or special service line processing privileges without the use of kiosks or RFID scanners.
- Although the closed-loop cruise ship passenger inspection procedures will be used to process most closed-loop cruise passengers, the Port Director has discretionary authority to conduct random and/or full-enforcement inspections.
- Individual ports of entry may establish local policy regarding the inspection of closed-loop passenger and crew member baggage that stays on board the vessel while passengers and/or crew members temporarily go ashore during port calls.

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- Under the expanded program, cruise ships may now embark a maximum of 200 downline/segmented-voyage passengers at foreign ports of call during a closed-loop voyage.
 - a) (b) (7)(E)
 - b) (b) (7)(E)
- This program does not exempt the cruise line carrier from compliance with the Passenger Vessel Services Act (46 U.S.C. 55103), governed under 19 C.F.R. 4.50(b) and 19 C.F.R. 4.80a.
- Cruise lines will submit a pre-departure (b) (7)(E) in accordance with 19 C.F.R. 4.64.
- Cruise lines will submit arrival (b) (7)(E) in accordance with 19 C.F.R. 4.7b, in the following manner:
 - a) An arrival manifest will be submitted that contains (b) (7)(E) for all crew members, passengers, and all downline/segmented voyage passengers; AND
 - b) Submit a manifest using a different voyage number that includes crew members and only downline/segmented passengers.
- Participating cruise lines will:

(b) (7)(E)

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Foreign Contiguous Territories include any country sharing a common boundary with the United States, such as Mexico and Canada (8 C.F.R. 241.25).

Adjacent Islands include: Anguilla, Antigua, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Barbuda, Bermuda, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Marie-Galante, Martinique, Miquelon, Montserrat, Saba, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Christopher, Saint Eustatius, Saint Kitts-Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Maarten, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, and other British, French and Netherlands territory or possessions bordering on the Caribbean Sea (8 C.F.R. § 286.1).