

Best Practice: Ferry Passenger Screening while in Transit



Sample Immigration Photo, not taken on a Ferry

Category:	Access Control
Location:	Port of La Goulette, Tunisia
Date Observed:	January 2005
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Description: Tunisian Immigrations and Customs officers are placed onboard international ferries at overseas departure ports. While in transit to Tunisian ports, the officers are able to conduct all Customs and Immigration checks of all passengers prior to their arrival into Tunisian ports.

Discussion: This practice eliminates the need for Customs and Immigration checks upon arrival in the ferry's port of arrival. Passengers can therefore quickly disembark the ferry and exit the terminal, reducing the amount of time they have to spend in port. This practice enhances security since passengers exit the arrival port as quickly as possible, and do not linger inside the ferry terminal. Passengers who do not meet immigration requirements can easily be detained on the ferry and sent back to their country of origin. To be most effective, Customs and Immigration officials from the countries on both sides of the ferry route should participate in this program. Nations that share excellent working relations could implement a multi-national Customs and Immigration team on board, with inspectors working

Potential Down-side: Nations wishing to implement this best practice would have to receive the approval and cooperation of the embarkation countries.

Conclusion: Though this best practice was designed to expedite passenger disembarkation and ferry turn around times, it also significantly improves port security by minimizing the amount of time passengers remain in the port, improving port monitoring operations and access control.

Cost: Configuring an efficient Customs / Immigration screening space on board the ferry.