

## **Best Practice: Door to Door Stacking of Empty Containers**



<b>Category:</b>	Security Infrastructure
<b>Location:</b>	Port of Rades, Tunisia
<b>Date Observed:</b>	January 2005
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**Description:** Empty inter-modal shipping containers are sealed in the port, in the presence of Customs officers then stacked door to door (back to back) to prevent unauthorized access.

**Discussion:** Stacking the containers door to door is a very simple method of preventing either stowaways or smugglers with contraband from gaining entry into shipping containers, as well as helping to prevent thieves from stealing the contents of shipping containers.

**Potential Down-side:** Container Safety Convention (CSC) information plates are mounted on the rear doors of containers. Storing containers back to back will prevent port inspectors from seeing the CSC plates. This can be overcome by inspectors examining CSC plates when containers are being transported into or out of the port facility.

**Conclusion:** A slight change in container storage procedures can increase port, cargo, and homeland security by reducing theft as well as the number of stowaways or amount of contraband leaving a country in empty containers.

**Cost:** Minor investment of time to train dock employees and plan container movements accordingly.