

Best Practice: Container Inspection



Category:	Training & Procedures
Location:	Bejaia-Bejaia Mediterranean Terminal, Algeria
Date Observed:	April 3-7, 2011
POC:	Not Available
WWW:	Not Available

Description: Facility security personnel physically measure the interior lengths of open and empty containers by using a calibrated staff to verify there are no hidden compartments at the back of the container(s) installed for smuggling contraband.

Discussion: The staff is easily manufactured out of wood, fiberglass, or pipe. It is efficient and used under various weather conditions with consistent results identifying hidden compartments.

Potential Down-side: Hidden compartments could be installed in the bottom, top, side and underneath of the container. The current method is specifically designed for verifying there are no hidden compartments in the back of the containers.

Conclusion: Hidden compartments inside containers are potentially used for smuggling illegal narcotics, weapons, money, and endangered wildlife. The use of a staff is a simple method that requires little training to combat this issue.

Cost: This practice is a relatively inexpensive way to ensure there are no hidden compartments at the back of the container(s).