



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

SEP 18 2009

**PORT OF SAVANNAH PIPELINE # 2009-07**

ENT-1-SV:FO:LFB

**TO:** All Vessel Agents, Freight Forwarders, Savannah Maritime Association, Longshoreman Association, and Other Interested Parties

**FROM:** Area Port Director  
Savannah, Georgia

**SUBJECT:** Safeguarding Requirements for Foreign Garbage

The United States Department of Agriculture has identified the commercial vessel shipping industry as a high risk pathway for potential introduction of foreign pest and animal diseases into the United States. Diseases/Pests such as Foot and Mouth disease, BSE (Mad Cow Disease), Avian Flu, Citrus Canker, Mediterranean fruit fly, Asian Gypsy moth, etc. If any of these significant pests were to become established in the United States, it would cost millions of dollars in domestic eradication programs and loss of foreign trade.

Just a reminder to all personnel working on commercial vessels in the Port of Savannah that all garbage must be secured properly while in United States territorial waters. Vessels are required to maintain control of all international food waste and other garbage by utilizing covered, leak-proof containers secured inside the vessel's rails in accordance with 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 330.400 and 9 CFR 94.5. Food, paper, plastic and wood dunnage must be secured to prevent movement off the vessel and minimize any pest risk associated with the garbage.

Port personnel working the vessels should be aware that dropping domestic foodstuffs could result in the Master incurring a penalty of \$1000 because the origin of the food is unknown to US Customs and Border Protection and must be safeguarded as such. Please make sure to utilize covered waste cans provided by the vessel for any food waste, paper and plastic waste, or carry your lunch remains off the vessel to an approved waste container. This will help to avoid any confusion when violations are discovered as to whether or not the garbage is domestic or international.

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to the Supervisory Agricultural Specialist Kyle Brinkley at 912-721-4840, Option 1 or Assistant Port Director Lynn Brennan at 912-447-9400.

  
John S. Porter