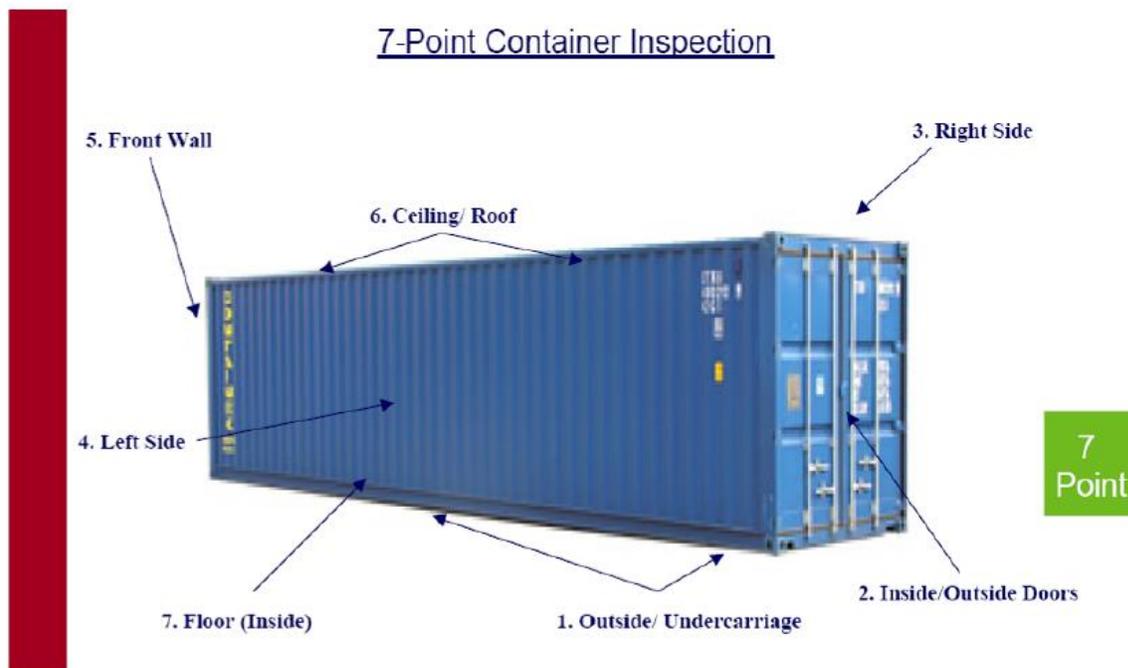


C-TPAT 7-Point Container Inspection

C-TPAT is an integral, voluntary program which now includes important elements for importers and exporters. Though we continually monitor this program for any news and updates, it's important to go back to the basics. So, we proceed with the 7-Point container inspection. When an ocean container is received at your facility, do you perform a seal check? Do you record the seal number in your records? Do you match the seal number on the container against the seal number reported on your bill of lading or commercial documents? According to best practices provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), you should have a 7-point inspection process for all containers (pictured above). Every time a container arrives to your facility the documents should be verified and a written procedure should be followed both at yours and the foreign facility. Not only should it cover the physical inspection of the marine container, it should also contain a portion for verification of container seals. Is there accountability and responsibility for how seals are controlled, issued, secured and affixed? Is this process certified and reconciled throughout the supply chain? For more information about the 7-point container inspection process, visit https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/7_pcic.pdf



International shipments are the most susceptible to introduction of unwanted or unauthorized materials, even when the parties engage in legitimate international trade. C-TPAT was legislated with the passage of the Safe Port Act, which became effective in October of 2006. With increased volumes of shipments and now with foreign governments instituting their own forms of security programs recognized by C-TPAT, it's more important than ever to ensure that supply chain activity is secure.

C-TPAT encompasses many facets of international business activity in terms of physical/procedural/personnel security, control environment, access controls, training and awareness. If you are interested in learning more about C-TPAT or how this program would be beneficial to your import or export activity, you can contact us and be placed in contact with a John S. James Co. C-TPAT specialist.