

AQUA Lane

Advanced Qualified Unlading Approval

(AQUA Lane)

Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism

(C-TPAT)



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

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What is AQUA Lane?

- AQUA Lane was developed to create an expedited clearance system to those C-TPAT sea carriers that qualify under a set of predetermined mandates that will give the carrier the ability to immediately unlade cargo upon arrival in the United States.
- This new C-TPAT benefit was developed in a joint partnership between CBP/C-TPAT, sea carriers, trade associations, COAC and local CBP port management. This process includes elements of CBP Agriculture and Trade.
- AQUA Lane will benefit both the trade community and CBP. It will enhance CBP's utilization of resources as well as improve the current informal unloading approval process amongst the various ports of entry.
- It will provide tangible benefits to the sea carriers as well as their trade partners in the overall supply chain while enhancing security to the supply chain process.



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AQUA Lane Eligible Ports

- AQUA Lane will be rolled out in a phased approach as follows:
- Sept. 15, 2016 – additional six ports added
 - Long Beach, Los Angeles, Newark, Savannah, Miami and Seattle / Tacoma.
- December 15, 2016 – additional ten ports added – Charleston, Houston, Jacksonville, Honolulu, Norfolk, Philadelphia, Wilmington (DE), Wilmington (NC), Boston, and San Juan.
- February 2017 – AQUA Lane is implemented CBP wide to all remaining seaports.



Potential benefits

- This benefit will immediately affect approximately 85 C-TPAT sea carrier members as well as reverberate through the entire supply chain due to quicker unloading times.
- Carriers will be able to more precisely predict dock labor scheduling and costs. The carrier will no longer need to guesstimate when to have dock labor scheduled therefore creating a cost savings by eliminating stand-by costs.
- Other cost savings for carrier would include fuel savings and dockage fees from faster unloading and turnaround times.
- Will allow CBP to provide a uniform policy for carriers to follow as well as allow CBP to focus their assets in different areas.



Requesting AQUA Lane

Steps to request AQUA Lane:

1. The carrier's vessel agent must request permission 24 hours prior to arrival from the CBP port of entry utilizing CBP Form 3171.
2. Complete section 9, box 5 by adding "AQUA Lane Requested." Please note that Permission must be requested for every voyage.
3. The port / CBP will verify that the carrier is in the C-TPAT program and in good standing.
4. The Port Director or designee will give final approval for AQUA Lane and the carrier will be notified.



Agriculture Check List

- AQUA Lane will not be granted should the carrier meet one or more of the following conditions:
 - High risk season for Asian gypsy moth (AGM) from high risk countries
 - Fumigation required upon arrival for Khapra beetle infestation
 - High risk for pests
 - Break bulk fruit vessel without:
 - Advanced submission of pre-cleared documentation, as applicable
 - Advanced submission of load plans
 - Advanced submission of final closed-out manifest
 - Cattle Vessels (Vessels for cattle export with containers or trailers to discharge) *see next page*



(Continued)

- Containers with cold treated commodities arriving into ports below the 39th parallel without confirmation from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine that the shipment has passed cold treatment.
- Garbage violation vessels



Agricultural High Risk Cargo & Ships

- Website for public use to high risk agricultural cargo and ships:
- <https://www.cbp.gov/border-security/protecting-agriculture>



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