



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

DEC 1 2004

Ms. Michelle Castanon
Secretary
Hercules Forwarding Inc.
7701 W 95th Street
Hickory Hills, IL 60457

Dear Ms. Castanon:

On behalf of the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, I want to thank you for submitting your Supply Chain Security Profile Questionnaire. By joining with us in the U.S. / Canada Border Highway Carrier Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and the Free And Secure Trade (FAST) programs, you are contributing to the security of our borders and to the continued free flow of international trade.

The participation of Hercules Forwarding Inc. and others from the highway transportation community is but a first important step in what promises to be a sustained effort to meet the challenge posed by the terrorist threat to the United States. Your role in the C-TPAT/FAST is to continue current efforts to secure your supply chains against possible compromise and communicate your efforts to your business partners while maintaining a high level of compliance in other U.S. Customs and Border Protection related areas.

Our commitment to you, consistent with our mission-critical objectives, is to provide an entry process marked by the efficient release of goods and the prompt resolution of any outstanding issues affecting U.S. Customs and Border Protection processing of shipments. In addition, U.S. Customs and Border Protection is currently in the process of assigning a point of contact who will act as a liaison for all C-TPAT/FAST related matters. In the interim, for any C-TPAT/FAST related issues, please contact the U. S Customs and Border Protection Headquarters C-TPAT/FAST office until you are assigned a C-TPAT/FAST point of contact. If you currently have an Account Manager assigned to your company, you may continue to engage him or her with any U.S. Customs and Border Protection related questions or concerns.

After careful review of your security profile, we are pleased to inform you that you have completed your Supply Chain Security Profile commitment and we welcome you as a certified partner in the C-TPAT/FAST programs.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection will proceed to provide Hercules Forwarding Inc. with C-TPAT/FAST benefits including a reduced level of cargo exams, anti-terrorism training seminars, sharing of information and best practices, etc.

Please be aware that as part of the continually evolving security process, C-TPAT/FAST partners should develop and maintain a complete and detailed security plan to be available for U.S. Customs and Border Protection to review upon request. Also, as part of your ongoing C-TPAT/FAST commitment, a self-policing program should be developed in order to review security procedures on a regular basis. Please see attached document with regards to self-policing. U.S. Customs and Border Protection will soon provide all partners with a C-TPAT/FAST yearly assessment to be completed by the appropriate company officials.

Again, I welcome Hercules Forwarding Inc. as a C-TPAT/FAST highway carrier partner and I thank you in advance for your support in this important effort.

Enclosed you will find a co-signed copy of the C-TPAT/FAST agreement and a consent form, to be signed at your discretion, granting U.S. Customs and Border Protection permission to include your company name in the CBP C-TPAT Status Verification Interface (SVI). For more information, please visit our web site at www.cbp.gov.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Robert Jacksta, Executive Director, Border Security & Facilitation, or Robert Perez, Director, Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism, at (202) 344-1180.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jayson P. Ahern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jayson P. Ahern
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Field Operations

Enclosures