Border Force

Tackling Metal Theft in Containers

Tish Birch Customs and National Operations Border Force

Introduction

All containers entering and leaving the UK (including Scotland and Northern Ireland) are controlled and targeted by three Border Force Targeting Hubs based at:-Felixstowe Southampton Liverpool

Containers are targeted from electronically captured manifests. • A number of electronic profiles can be set to capture high risk traffic. The profiles can be set on 30 data elements Profiles can be set on a combination of data elements

These data elements include:-

- Container number
- Exporter
- Importer
- Port of destination (unloading)
- Export post code
- Goods description or commodity codeWeight

• The target teams can track a container in the UK to port of export They can profile it so that they know which port it is being exported from. A "hold" can be put onto the container and it cannot be released for export (or import) until we remove the hold

• As in the previous slides Border Force has the data. We know how many exports there are from the UK. We know who is exporting. We know who the importer is. • We know what is declared at export. • We know where it is being exported to.



 Stolen goods are not an assigned matter for Border Force

Problems

We cannot target EU exports as there is no legal requirement to provide an export declaration for EU goods.
An EU export manifest shows little data and comprises "mainly" of logistic

company to logistic company information.

• And "said to contain" (STC)

Problems

Border Force can profile any exports from the UK

BUT

 We need Information and Intelligence to enable us to profile.

Problems

• To enable Border Force to profile we need:-Intelligence Names of suspect exporters Country of destination Known "cover loads" Suspect post codes ANYTHING as a starter for 10 !!

MO Scenarios

Steal the cable (or any type of metal)

Put it into a container at a "slaughter site"

 It can be at the dock and exported within hours of the theft.

Why use containers?

No-one can see inside a container.
If stolen metal is placed at the back of a container and a cover load (possibly legitimate scrap metal) put in front of it, the scrap has to come out first.
There is only one way into the container!!

Why use Containers?

A container can carry up to 26 tonnes

- A container export can be hidden in the volume of exports.
- Typically a port such as Felixstowe has a daily through put of 10,000 containers.
- There is no verification of the export declaration against what is in the container.

And of course the export can be mis-described both for goods and exporter!!

Why use Containers?

UNLESS WE TARGET (PROFILE) AND EXAMINE !!

 BUT to do that we need Intelligence and Information.

Thank You

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Any Questions?

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