



U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
Department of Homeland Security
AREA PORT OF HOUSTON-GALVESTON

PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICE

DATE: 3/31/09

NUMBER:
HOU SEA-09-02

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:
APD Greg Vawter 713-454-8002

SUBJECT: Clarification of proper parole procedures

U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Area Port of Houston/Galveston by issuance of this Public Information Notice (PIN), hereby reiterates and reinforces within the Trade community the proper definition and conditions of the requesting and granting of paroles to foreign nationals.

Parole defined: Per 8 CFR section 253.1, CBP has the option of granting paroles at their discretion. A parole is a measure to be used in circumstances involving **SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC BENEFIT, HUMANITARIAN CIRCUMSTANCES, and OTHER LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES** deemed appropriate by CBP.

Parole examples:

SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC BENEFIT

- An alien that is subpoenaed as a witness by a local, state, or federal jurisdiction.
- A stowaway or other individual found inadmissible and therefore requiring entry for processing for removal from the United States

HUMANITARIAN

- Illness or injury requiring medical attention
- Shipwrecked or castaway seamen rescued at sea
- Aliens alleging persecution

OTHER

- A parole for a limited number of ship's personnel to conduct essential business is also appropriate in situations where a crew is detained on board due to lack of a visa.

Under no circumstances is a parole to be used as a substitute for, or in lieu of obtaining a properly issued visa that is appropriate for the alien's application of admission.

/s/

Michael Sinclair
Area Port Director

DISCLAIMER: *This information has been prepared for your convenience by the CBP officers at the Port of Houston/Galveston. This material is intended to provide guidance. Recognizing that many complicated factors are involved in Customs and Border Protection matters, an importer may wish to obtain a binding ruling under 19 CFR Part 177. Reliance solely on this information may not be considered reasonable care. Importers are referred to Treasury Decision 97-96, which was published in the Federal Register of December 4, 1997, and in the Customs Bulletin of December 17, 1997, for in-depth information on the concept of reasonable care.*

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Please visit our website at www.cbp.gov

Niels Lyngso

From: Niels Lyngso
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 11:06 AM
To: Niels Aalund (naalund@wgma.org)
Subject: CBP Parole Procedures
Attachments: PIN - Parole procedures.doc

April 1, 2009

To: All WGMA members

We are attaching copy PIN HOU SEA-09-02 issued by CBP in Houston clarifying parole procedures.

By regulation CBP is authorized to grant crewmembers with a D1/C1 visa a stay up to 29 days. By regulation the only mechanism to grant crewmembers with an expired shore pass or no visa to land is by granting a parole.

Prior to the events of September 11, 2001 crew members arriving without a visa were routinely granted a parole and given permission to go ashore. After the events of September 11, 2001 such crew members were denied parole and shore leave.

In many ports crew members without visas have been granted paroles for purposes of repatriation and the agent would typically be required to prove travel arrangements on a carrier departing directly to a foreign destination where possible and hire guards to escort such crewmembers to the airport from where the flight would depart for a foreign destination and remain at the gate until the flight had departed.

As per the attached PIN (Public Information Notice) CBP has now established a policy that crewmembers without a valid visa will not be granted a parole for repatriation purposes if an emergency or other circumstance as specified by regulation does not exist.

CBP explained to WGMA that this decision is based on security concerns since the government does not have the biometrics of the individual on file which is obtained during the visa application process at the U.S. Embassy. Hence it will be difficult for authorities to identify such a person at a later stage during contact with law enforcement agencies.

The regulations for the inspection and paroling of crewmen can be found in 8 CFR 252 (Inspection) and 8 CFR 253 (Parole).

CBP has confirmed to us that this does not pertain to "Lightering Passes" and that crew members employed on vessels in the lightering trades will continue to be granted paroles after their initial 29 day period has expired.

WGMA recommends that members inform their principals accordingly and emphasize the requirement for crew members to have a valid visa in order to go ashore and to repatriate in a United States port.

We ask that members with concerns contact us with concerns and questions in order for us to present to CBP for further clarification.

Best regards
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4/1/2009

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crewman listed shall be shown. In addition, the captain or agent of the aircraft shall indicate the total number of alien crewmembers and the total number of United States citizen crewmembers.

(b) *Notification of changes in employment for aircraft.* The agent of the air transportation line shall immediately notify in writing the nearest immigration office of the termination of employment in the United States of each alien employee of the line furnishing the name, birth date, birthplace, nationality, passport number, and other available information concerning such alien. The procedure to follow in obtaining permission to pay off or discharge an alien crewman in the United States after initial immigration inspection, other than an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, is set forth in §252.1(f) of this chapter.

[62 FR 10387, Mar. 6, 1997]

§ 251.5 Paper arrival and departure manifests for crew.

In addition to the electronic manifest transmission requirement applicable to crew members specified in §§231.1 and 231.2 of this chapter, the master or commanding officer, or authorized agent, owner, or consignee, of a commercial vessel or commercial aircraft arriving in or departing from the United States must submit arrival and departure manifests in a paper format in accordance with §§251.1, 251.3, and 251.4.

[70 FR 17849, Apr. 7, 2005]

§ 251.6 Exemptions for private vessels and aircraft.

The provisions of this part relating to the presentation of arrival and departure manifests do not apply to a private vessel or private aircraft not engaged directly or indirectly in the carrying of persons or cargo for hire.

[70 FR 17849, Apr. 7, 2005]

PART 252—LANDING OF ALIEN CREWMEN

Sec.

252.1 Examination of crewmen.

252.2 Revocation of conditional landing permits; removal.

8 CFR Ch. I (1–1–08 Edition)

252.3 Great Lakes vessels and tugboats arriving in the United States from Canada; special procedures.

252.4 Permanent landing permit and identification card.

252.5 Special procedures for deserters from Spanish or Greek ships of war.

AUTHORITY: 8 U.S.C. 1103, 1184, 1185 (pursuant to E.O. 13323 published on January 2, 2004), 1258, 1281, 1282; 8 CFR part 2.

§ 252.1 Examination of crewmen.

(a) *Detention prior to examination.* All persons employed in any capacity on board any vessel or aircraft arriving in the United States shall be detained on board the vessel or at the airport of arrival by the master or agent of such vessel or aircraft until admitted or otherwise permitted to land by an officer of the Service.

(b) *Classes of aliens subject to examination under this part.* The examination of every nonimmigrant alien crewman arriving in the United States shall be in accordance with this part except that the following classes of persons employed on vessels or aircraft shall be examined in accordance with the provisions of 8 CFR parts 235 and 240:

(1) Canadian or British citizen crewmen serving on vessels plying solely between Canada and the United States; or

(2) Canadian or British citizen crewmen of aircraft arriving in a State of the United States directly from Canada on flights originating in that country. The crew of a vessel arriving at a United States port that may not require inspection by or clearance from the United States Customs Service is, nevertheless, subject to examination under this part; however, the master of such a vessel is not required to present Form I-95 for any crewman who is not an applicant for a conditional landing permit.

(c) *Requirements for landing permits.* Every alien crewman applying for landing privileges in the United States is subject to the provisions of 8 CFR 235.1(d)(1)(ii) and (iii), and must make his or her application in person before a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer, present whatever documents are required, establish to the satisfaction of the inspecting officer that he or she is not inadmissible under any provision of the law, and is

entitled clearly and beyond doubt to landing privileges in the United States.

(d) *Authorization to land.* The immigration officer in his discretion may grant an alien crewman authorization to land temporarily in the United States for: (1) Shore leave purposes during the period of time the vessel or aircraft is in the port of arrival or other ports in the United States to which it proceeds directly without touching at a foreign port or place, not exceeding 29 days in the aggregate, if the immigration officer is satisfied that the crewman intends to depart on the vessel on which he arrived or on another aircraft of the same transportation line, and the crewman's passport is surrendered for safe keeping to the master of the arriving vessel, or (2) the purpose of departing from the United States as a crewman on a vessel other than the one on which he arrived, or departing as a passenger by means of other transportation, within a period of 29 days, if the immigration officer is satisfied that the crewman intends to depart in that manner, that definite arrangements for such departure have been made, and the immigration officer has consented to the pay off or discharge of the crewman from the vessel on which he arrived. A crewman granted a conditional permit to land under section 252(a)(1) of the Act and paragraph (d)(1) of this section is required to depart with his vessel from its port of arrival and from each other port in the United States to which it thereafter proceeds coastwise without touching at a foreign port or place; however, he may rejoin his vessel at another port in the United States before it touches at a foreign port or place if he has advance written permission from the master or agent to do so.

(e) *Conditional permits to land.* Unless the crewman is in possession of Form I-184 and is landed under paragraph (d)(1) of this section, the immigration officer shall give to each alien non-immigrant crewman permitted to land a copy of the Form I-95 presented by the crewman, endorsed to show the date and place of admission and the type of conditional landing permit.

(f) *Change of status.* An alien non-immigrant crewman landed pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be

ineligible for any extension of stay or for a change of nonimmigrant classification under part 248 of this chapter. A crewman admitted under paragraph (d)(1) of this section may, if still maintaining status, apply for a conditional landing permit under paragraph (d)(2) of this section. The application shall not be approved unless an application on Form I-408, filed pursuant to paragraph (h) of this section, has been approved authorizing the master or agent of the vessel on which the crewman arrived to pay off or discharge the crewman and unless evidence is presented by the master or agent of the vessel to which the crewman will be transferred that a specified position on that vessel has been authorized for him or that satisfactory arrangements have been completed for the repatriation of the alien crewman. If the application is approved, the crewman shall be given a new Form I-95 endorsed to show landing authorized under paragraph (d)(2) of this section for the period necessary to accomplish his scheduled reshipment, which shall not exceed 29 days from the date of his landing, upon surrendering any conditional landing permit previously issued to him on Form I-95.

(g) *Refusal of conditional landing permit.* When an alien crewman is refused a conditional landing permit for any reason, the Form I-95 presented by him at time of examination shall be endorsed "Permission to land temporarily at all U.S. ports is refused" and the Form I-95 shall be given to the master or agent of the vessel or aircraft and, in the case of vessels, the alien crewman's name shall be listed on the Form I-410 delivered to the master of the vessel upon completion of the examination of the crew. If an alien crewman who has been refused a conditional landing permit is in possession of Form I-184, the Form I-184 shall be lifted by the examining immigration officer and, except in the case of an alien crewman who is refused a conditional landing permit solely because he is not in possession of a valid passport or visa, the Form I-184 shall be voided. In the case of an alien crewman refused a conditional landing permit because

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he is not in possession of a valid passport or visa, the Form I-184 shall be delivered to the master or agent of the vessel with instructions to return it to the alien crewman after the vessel has departed from the United States.

(h) *Authorization to pay off or discharge an alien crewman.* Application to pay off or discharge an alien crewman, except an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, shall be made by the owner, agent, consignee, charterer, master, or commanding officer of the vessel or aircraft on which the alien crewman arrived on Form I-408 filed with the immigration officer having jurisdiction over the area in which the vessel or aircraft is located at the time of application. The applicant shall be notified of the decision, and, if the application is denied, of the reasons therefor. There shall be no appeal from the denial of an application on Form I-408.

[23 FR 2788, Apr. 26, 1958, as amended at 27 FR 11875, Dec. 1, 1962; 29 FR 13243, Sept. 24, 1964; 29 FR 14432, Oct. 21, 1964; 32 FR 9633, July 4, 1967; 33 FR 9332, June 26, 1968; 33 FR 17137, Nov. 19, 1968; 58 FR 48779, Sept. 20, 1993; 62 FR 10388, Mar. 6, 1997; 69 FR 53333, Aug. 31, 2004]

§ 252.2 Revocation of conditional landing permits; removal.

(a) *Revocation and removal while vessel is in the United States.* A crewman whose landing permit is subject to revocation pursuant to section 252(b) of the Act may be taken into custody by any immigration officer without a warrant of arrest and be transferred to the vessel of arrival, if the vessel is in any port in the United States and has not departed foreign since the crewman was issued his or her conditional landing permit. Detention and removal of the crewman shall be at the expense of the transportation line on which the crewman arrived. Removal may be effected on the vessel of arrival or, if the master of the vessel has requested in writing, by alternate means if removal on the vessel of arrival is impractical.

(b) *Revocation and removal after vessel has departed the United States.* A crewman who was granted landing privileges prior to April 1, 1997, and who has not departed foreign on the vessel of arrival, or on another vessel or aircraft

if such permission was granted pursuant to § 252.1(f), is subject to removal proceedings under section 240 of the Act as an alien deportable pursuant to section 237(a)(1)(C)(i) of the Act. A crewman who was granted landing privileges on or after April 1, 1997, and who has not departed foreign on the vessel of arrival, or on another vessel or aircraft if such permission was granted pursuant to § 252.1(f), shall be removed from the United States without a hearing, except as provided in § 208.2(b)(1) of this chapter. In either case, if the alien is removed within 5 years of the date of landing, removal of the crewman shall be at the expense of the owner of the vessel. In the case of a crewman ordered removed more than 5 years after the date of landing, removal shall be at the expense of the appropriation for the enforcement of the Act.

[62 FR 10388, Mar. 6, 1997]

§ 252.3 Great Lakes vessels and tugboats arriving in the United States from Canada; special procedures.

(a) *United States vessels and tugboats.* An immigration examination shall not be required of any crewman aboard a Great Lakes vessel of United States registry or a tugboat of United States registry arriving from Canada at a port of the United States who has been examined and admitted by an immigration officer as a member of the crew of the same vessel or tugboat or of any other vessel or tugboat of the same company during the current calendar year.

(b) *Canadian or British vessels or tugboats.* An alien crewman need not be presented for inspection if the alien crewman:

(1) Serves aboard a Great Lakes vessel of Canadian or British registry or aboard a tugboat of Canadian or British registry arriving at a United States port-of-entry from Canada;

(2) Seeks admission for a period of less than 29 days;

(3) Has, during the current calendar year, been inspected and admitted by an immigration officer as a member of the crew of the same vessel or tugboat, or of any other vessel or tugboat of the same company;

a period not exceeding 3 months or 2 months, respectively, from the day of arrest to afford opportunity to arrange for his or her departure from the United States.

(d) *Timely departure not effected.* If the Spanish authorities delay in sending the individual home for more than 3 months, or if the Greek authorities delay in sending the individual home for more than 2 months, from the day of his or her arrest, the individual shall be dealt with as any other alien unlawfully in the United States under the removal provisions of the Act, as amended.

(e) *Commission of crime.* If the individual has committed any crime or offense in the United States, he or she shall not be placed at the disposal of the consul until after the proper tribunal having jurisdiction in his or her case shall have pronounced sentence, and such sentence shall have been executed.

[62 FR 10388, Mar. 6, 1997]

PART 253—PAROLE OF ALIEN CREWMEN

Sec.

253.1 Parole.

253.2 Termination of parole.

AUTHORITY: 8 U.S.C. 1103, 1182, 1282, 1283, 1285; 8 CFR part 2.

§ 253.1 Parole.

(a) *General.* When a crewman is paroled into the United States pursuant to the provisions of this part under the provisions of section 212(d)(5) of the Act, he shall be given Form I-94, reflecting the terms of parole. A notice on Form I-259 shall be served upon the agent, and, if available, upon the owner and master or commanding officer of the vessel or aircraft, which shall specify the purpose of the parole and the conditions under which the alien crewman is paroled into the United States. The Form I-259 shall also specify the Service office to which the alien crewman is to be presented for inspection upon termination of the parole. The guarantee of payment for medical and other related expenses required by section 253 of the Act shall be executed by the owner, agent, consignee, com-

manding officer or master on Form I-510.

(b) *Afflicted crewman.* Any alien crewman afflicted with feeble-mindedness, insanity, epilepsy, tuberculosis in any form, leprosy, or any dangerous contagious disease, or an alien crewman suspected of being so afflicted shall upon arrival at the first port of call in the United States, be paroled to the medical institution designated by the district director in whose district the port is located, in the custody (other than during the period of time he is in such medical institution) of the agent of the vessel or aircraft on which such alien arrived in the United States and at the expense of the transportation line for a period initially not to exceed thirty days, for treatment and observation, under the provisions of section 212(d)(5) of the Act. Unless the Public Health Surgeon at the first port certifies that such parole be effected immediately for emergent reasons, the district director may defer execution of parole to a subsequent port of the United States to which the vessel or aircraft will proceed, if facilities not readily available at the first port are readily available at such subsequent port of call. Notice to remove an afflicted alien crewman shall be served by the examining immigration officer upon the master or agent of the vessel or aircraft on Form I-259 and shall specify the date when and the place to which such alien crewman shall be removed and the reasons therefor.

(c) *Disabled crewman.* Any alien crewman who becomes disabled in any port of the United States, whom the master or agent of the vessel or aircraft is obliged under foreign law to return to another country, may be paroled into the United States under the provisions of section 212(d)(5) of the Act for the period of time and under the conditions set by the district director in whose district the port is located, in the custody of the agent of the vessel or aircraft for the purpose of passing through the United States and transferring to another vessel or aircraft for departure to such foreign country, by the most direct and expeditious route.

(d) *Shipwrecked or castaway seamen or airmen.* A shipwrecked or castaway alien seaman or airman who is rescued

by or transferred at sea to a vessel or aircraft destined directly for the United States and who is brought to the United States on such vessel or aircraft other than as a member of its crew shall be paroled into the United States under the provisions of section 212(d)(5) of the Act for the period of time and under the conditions set by the district director in whose district the port is located, in the custody of the appropriate foreign consul or the agent of the aircraft or vessel which was wrecked or from which such seaman or airman was removed, for the purpose of treatment or observation in a hospital, if such is required, and for departure to the appropriate foreign country by the most direct and expeditious route.

(e) *Medical treatment or observation.* Any alien crewman denied a conditional landing permit or whose conditional landing permit issued under § 252.1(d)(1) of this chapter is revoked may, upon the request of the master or agent, be paroled into the United States under the provisions of section 212(d)(5) of the Act in the custody of the agent of the vessel or aircraft and at the expense of the transportation line for medical treatment or observation.

(f) *Crewman, stowaway, or alien removable under section 235(c) alleging persecution or torture.* Any alien crewman, stowaway, or alien removable under section 235(c) of the Act who alleges that he or she cannot return to his or her country of nationality or last habitual residence (if not a national of any country) because of fear of persecution in that country on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, or because of fear of torture is eligible to apply for asylum or withholding of removal under 8 CFR part 208. Service officers shall take particular care to ensure that the provisions of § 208.5(b) of this chapter regarding special duties toward aliens aboard certain vessels are closely followed.

(g) *Other crewmen.* In the discretion of the district director, any alien crewman not within the purview of paragraphs (b) through (f) of this section may for other emergent reasons or for reasons deemed strictly in the public

interest be paroled into the United States under the provisions of section 212(d)(5) of the Act for the period of time and under the conditions set by the district director having jurisdiction over the area where the alien crewman is located.

[22 FR 9804, Dec. 6, 1957, as amended at 26 FR 11797, Dec. 8, 1961; 32 FR 4341, Mar. 22, 1967; 32 FR 9633, July 4, 1967; 55 FR 30687, July 27, 1990; 62 FR 10389, Mar. 6, 1997; 64 FR 8495, Feb. 19, 1999]

§ 253.2 Termination of parole.

(a) *General.* At the expiration of the period of parole authorized by the district director, or when the purpose of the parole has been served, whichever is earlier, the agent upon whom the relating Form I-259 was served as provided in § 253.1, shall present the alien crewman for inspection to an immigration officer at the Service office specified in the Form I-259. If the agent cannot present the alien crewman, the agent shall immediately submit a report of the reasons therefor to the district director. The district director shall take such further action as the circumstances may require. If the vessel or aircraft on which the alien crewman arrived in the United States is still in the United States when he is presented for inspection, he shall be treated as an applicant for a conditional landing permit and his case shall be dealt with in the same manner as any other applicant for a conditional landing permit. If the vessel or aircraft on which the alien crewman arrived in the United States departed before he was presented for inspection, the agent shall be directed by means of written notice on Form I-259 to arrange for the removal of the alien crewman from the United States, and if such alien crewman thereafter departs voluntarily from the United States within the time specified by the district director, such departure shall not be considered a deportation within the meaning of this section.

(b) *Revocation of parole.* When an immigration officer has reason to believe that an alien crewman paroled into the United States pursuant to the provisions of § 253.1 has violated the conditions of parole, the immigration officer

may take such alien crewman into custody without a warrant of arrest. Following such action, the alien crewman shall be accorded, without undue delay, an examination by another immigration officer. If it is determined on the basis of such examination that the individual detained is an alien crewman pursuant to the provisions of §253.1 and that he has violated the conditions of the parole or has remained in the United States beyond the period authorized by the district director, the district director shall cause to be served upon the alien crewman a written notice that his parole has been revoked, setting forth the reasons for such action. If the vessel or aircraft upon which the alien crewman arrived in the United States is still in the United States, the alien crewman shall be delivered to that vessel or aircraft and Form I-259 shall be served upon the master or commanding officer of the vessel or aircraft directing that the alien crewman be detained on board the vessel or aircraft and deported from the United States. A copy of Form I-259 shall also be served on the agent for the vessel or aircraft. If the vessel or aircraft upon which the alien crewman arrived in the United States has departed from the United States, the agent or owner of the vessel or aircraft shall be directed by means of a notice on Form I-259 to effect the deportation of the alien crewman from the United States. Pending deportation, the alien crewman shall be continued in custody, unless the district director authorizes his release on parole under such conditions, including the posting of a suitable bond, as the district director may prescribe.

[32 FR 4342, Mar. 22, 1967]

PART 258—LIMITATIONS ON PERFORMANCE OF LONGSHORE WORK BY ALIEN CREWMEN

- Sec.
258.1 Limitations—General.
258.2 Exceptions.
258.3 Action upon arrival.

AUTHORITY: 8 U.S.C. 1101, 1103, 1281; 8 CFR part 2.

SOURCE: 57 FR 40834, Sept. 8, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

§258.1 Limitations—General.

(a) *Longshore work defined.* Longshore work means any activity relating to the loading and unloading of cargo, the operation of cargo-related equipment [whether or not integral to the vessel], and the handling of mooring lines on the dock when the vessel is made fast or let go, in the United States or the coastal waters thereof.

(1) Longshore work is not included in the term "normal operation and service on board a vessel" for the purposes of section 101(a)(15)(D)(i) of the Act except as provided in sections 258 (c) or (d) of the Act.

(2) A vessel that uses nonimmigrant crewmen to perform longshore work, other than the activities allowed in particular circumstances under §258.2 (a)(2), (b), or (c) of this part, shall be subject to a fine under section 251(d) of the Act.

(b) *Port defined.* For purposes of this section, the term *port* means a geographic area, either on a seacoast, lake, river, or other navigable body of water, which contains one or more publicly or privately owned terminals, piers, docks, or maritime facilities, which is commonly regarded as a port by other government maritime related agencies, such as the Maritime Administration.

§258.2 Exceptions.

Any master or agent who uses nonimmigrant crewmen to perform longshore work at any United States port under the exceptions provided for in paragraphs (a)(2), (b), or (c) of this section must so indicate on the crew manifest and shall note under which exception the work will be performed.

(a) *Hazardous cargo.* (1) The term *longshore work* does not include the loading and unloading of any cargo for which the Secretary of Transportation has prescribed regulations under authority contained in chapter 37 of title 46, United States Code, section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, section 4106 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, or section 105 or 106 of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.