

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1010

To amend title 46, United States Code, to require inspection of cargo destined for the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Mr. NADLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means and Select Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 46, United States Code, to require inspection of cargo destined for the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Port Protection Act
5 of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONTAINERIZED CARGO INSPECTION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle II of title 46, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing new part:

5 “PART K—CARGO SECURITY
6 **“CHAPTER 151—CONTAINERIZED AND**
7 **NONCONTAINERIZED CARGO**

“Sec.

“15101. Inspection of cargo containers and noncontainerized cargo destined for
United States.

“15102. Inspection of container vessels prior to entry into United States port.

“15103. Denial of entry of container vessels.

8 **“§15101. Inspection of cargo containers and non-**
9 **containerized cargo destined for United**
10 **States.**

11 “(a) Effective January 1, 2005, the Secretary of
12 Homeland Security shall require for all containerized
13 cargo destined for the United States, that each cargo con-
14 tainer be inspected, the contents verified, and the con-
15 tainer sealed—

16 “(1) by personnel of the Department of Home-
17 land Security;

18 “(2) at a port or airport outside the United
19 States; and

20 “(3) before the container is loaded onto or re-
21 moved from the vessel or airplane, as applicable.

22 “(b)(1) In the case of any cargo container entering
23 the United States by any means other than a vessel or

1 an airplane, the Customs Service shall not permit the
2 entry of the container without a proper and intact inspec-
3 tion seal of the Department of Homeland Security.

4 “(2) The Customs Service shall not permit the entry
5 of any noncontainerized cargo by any means other than
6 a vessel or an airplane until it has inspected all such cargo
7 and has verified that it does not contain a chemical, bio-
8 logical, or nuclear weapon.

9 **“§ 15102. Inspection of cargo vessels prior to entry**
10 **into United States port**

11 “(a) The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall
12 board and inspect each vessel carrying cargo destined for
13 the United States, at least 200 miles from the United
14 States.

15 “(b) An inspection under this section shall include
16 physical inspection to verify that—

17 “(1) the cargo containers on the vessel have not
18 been tampered with; and

19 “(2) the remainder of the vessel, including but
20 not limited to noncontainerized cargo, the engine
21 room, living quarters, bathrooms, and hull, does not
22 contain a chemical, biological, or nuclear weapon.

23 **“§ 15103. Denial of entry of cargo vessels**

24 “The Secretary shall deny entry into the territorial
25 waters of the United States to any vessel that—

1 “(1) is carrying any cargo that does not comply
2 with the requirements under section 15101;

3 “(2) is not inspected in accordance with section
4 15102; or

5 “(3) that fails an inspection under section
6 15102.”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of chap-
8 ters at the beginning of subtitle II of title 46, United States
9 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART K—CARGO SECURITY

“151. **Containerized and Noncontainerized Cargo**15101”.

