

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

Status Categories of Cruise Ships with Bermuda, Caribbean and Mexico Itineraries

1) There will be three status categories assigned to cruise ships with Bermuda, Caribbean, and Mexico itineraries:

Category 1: Cruise ships without a compliance agreement (category exists currently). This category will require full CBP AS passenger clearance and oversight of landing of regulated garbage unless removed by a trained employee of a compliance agreement holder such as a hauler. Under this scenario, the compliance agreement holder's employee is **not** authorized to supervise the stevedores and/or cruise ship employees in the actual landing process unless the compliance agreement includes a provision for the supervision of the stevedores and/or the cruise ship employees. There must be continual direct oversight by CBP or a trained employee of a compliance agreement holder such as a hauler. (Note: The hauler must agree, in writing as an addendum to the hauler's compliance agreement, to take responsibility for activities related to the offloading of regulated garbage. The addendum will be approved by APHIS personnel at the local level. Not every hauling company will agree to this requirement.)

Category 2: Cruise ships with the passenger education (PAX ED) compliance agreement (clarification of current compliance agreement). This category will not authorize cruise ship personnel to land regulated garbage; there must be continual direct oversight by CBP or a trained employee of a compliance agreement holder such as a hauler. (Note: The hauler must agree, in writing as an addendum to the hauler's compliance agreement, to take responsibility for activities related to the offloading of regulated garbage. The addendum will be approved by APHIS personnel at the local level. Not every hauling company will agree to this requirement.) This PAX ED compliance agreement will be signed at the Company/APHIS/CBP headquarters level and will include a list of cruise ships that are covered under this agreement. Passenger education material must be approved at the APHIS HQ level. Cruise ship personnel are responsible for ensuring that CBP at each port of call has a copy of the current compliance agreement.

Category 3: Cruise ships with a full compliance agreement (Supervision of Landing of RG). This category will authorize the cruise ship to land regulated garbage without CBP or other compliance agreement holder (such as a hauler) continual direct oversight, using the ship's own personnel or stevedores/longshoremen. The cruise ship accepts responsibility for all activities related to the offloading of the cruise ship's regulated garbage. This category will also allow for either of the other two situations: direct oversight by CBP or direct oversight by a compliance agreement holder. The other caveats under Category 2 will apply. Each cruise ship will have one compliance agreement. All procedures necessary to land regulated garbage at each port of call will be included either in the cruise ship standard operating procedure or as an addendum to the compliance agreement. This compliance agreement will be signed by a representative of the cruise ship. Cruise ship personnel are responsible for ensuring that CBP at each port of call has a copy of the current compliance agreement. **All cruise ship compliance agreements that cover landing regulated garbage will be valid for one year from the date of the compliance agreement.**

Note: With respect to this category of cruise ship compliance agreements, the signer of the CA should be someone who will be responsible for the entire one-year period of the CA.