

2013 Deputy Administrator's Safeguarding Award: Honorable Mention – CBP's Brownsville Cargo Team

U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Cargo Team in Brownsville, Texas was nominated for the award because of its outstanding enforcement of the international standard for wood packing materials (ISPM-15) in 2013. The team's exceptional vigilance prevented the U.S. entry of more than 250 commercial shipments that had infested, untreated, unmarked, or inappropriately marked wood packing material. This marked an approximate increase of 180 percent over 2012. More than 95 percent of the team's interceptions of non-compliant wood packing materials were from inspections of non-regulated cargo, thereby demonstrating the team's initiative to target, inspect, and intercept non-agricultural cargo that posed a significant agricultural risk. The team's enforcement actions resulted in penalties of more than \$1.4 million and included a bilingual outreach program that informed more than 20 multinational companies. Some of those companies established procedures and quality assurance positions to inspect and verify that pallets used for exports to the United States comply with regulations. Several companies have improved their compliance with wood packing regulations by switching to pallets made of manufactured wood and plastic. In short, the team's interceptions surpassed expectations and enhanced our safeguarding.

Members of the team

1. Anabel Beltran, Chief Agriculture Specialist
2. Jared J. Franklin, CBP Agricultural Specialist
3. Eutimio Cantu, CBP Agricultural Specialist
4. Mario A. Amaro, CBP Agricultural Specialist
5. Donald H. Cadriel, CBP Agricultural Specialist
6. Vicente Campos, CBP Agricultural Specialist
7. Miguel A. Garcia, CBP Agricultural Specialist
8. Edio Longoria, CBP Agricultural Specialist
9. Duane Stryker, CBP Agricultural Specialist