

GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS

Since 1991, there has been an ever-increasing level of shipment scrutiny by U.S. governmental agencies. However, holds for customs documentation processing are also prevalent at other gateways, including Trinidad, San Juan and Kingston. In today's world, delays of weeks are not uncommon due to terminal congestion or reduced staffing levels for governmental agencies performing mandatory inspections.

Types of Holds

Terminal Hold	When a hold is placed on the entire number of containers discharged from a given vessel until the containers are staged and stacked in a marshalling yard. The hold may last from 1 day to several weeks.
Customs Hold	When a government agency inspects shipments either physical or by unloading and/or using X-ray or documentary equipment.

Types of Inspections

CET	Inspections using X-ray technologies or the unloading cargo.
Trade Enforcement	Inspections designed to prohibit trademark infringement.
USDA	Inspections to ensure cargo carries the proper permits and appropriate products (food and beverages).
APHIS	Annual and semi-annual inspections to prevent the harboring of insects or pests in cargo.