



Singapore Shipping Association

Ref: SSA/079/08/EML

1 July 2008

To: All SSA Members

CRIME ALERT – THEFT OF SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLES (SUVs)

This is to inform that there has been a spate of thefts of luxury sport utility vehicles reported across the island. Till date, a total of 12 SUVs have been reported missing since 13 June 2008. The models targeted were the Lexus RX class, Toyota Harrier and RAV4. Despite the cars being equipped with alarm systems, intrusion sensors and immobilizer systems, the car thieves managed to compromise the security systems and drove the vehicles away.

The Singapore Police Force has not ruled out the possibility that thefts could be syndicated and the SUVs could be shipped out through Singapore's ports. While the Police and immigration departments are stepping up checks with port authorities, they have requested our assistance to inform the shipping industry to remain vigilant and to notify the authorities if you spot any peculiarity in a shipment.

For more details, please refer to the enclosed crime advisory.

Your assistance to help combat crime is very much appreciated.

Best Regards

MARIANNE CHOO
General Manager



1 July 08

Mr Daniel Tan
Executive Director
Singapore Shipping Association

Dear Sir,

CRIME ALERT FOR THEFT OF LUXURY SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES (SUVs)

Over the past 2 weeks, several thefts of luxury sport utility vehicles were reported across the island. Till date, a total of 10 SUVs have been reported missing since 13 June 2008. The models targeted were the Lexus RX class, Toyota Harrier and RAV4. Despite being equipped with alarm systems, intrusion sensors and immobilizer systems, the car thieves had managed to compromise the security systems and drove the vehicles away.

2. It is pertinent that this information be shared with port authorities and operators from the shipping industry as the thefts could be syndicated and the SUVs could be shipped out through Singapore's ports in containers. As the renowned association in the shipping industry, we require your assistance to alert your members staff/security personnel to this crime concern and adopt the following measures: -

- a) Look out for SUVs, especially models such as Toyota Harrier/RAV4 or Lexus RX being shipped abroad and ascertain that all documents (bills of lading) are in order before the vehicles are allowed to be shipped.
- b) Conduct frequent audits/checks on cargo that are purportedly cars being shipped out. If any of the vehicles are SUVs, especially Toyota Harriers/RAV4 or Lexus RX models, extra checks on tell-tale signs of a stolen vehicle should be made.
- c) Tell-tale signs of stolen vehicles include:
 - Hastily/loosely/crudely affixed license plates, as the thieves could switch license plates after stealing the vehicle.
 - Body damage or broken/no windows (caused during the commission of the crime).
 - Compromised door locks, which makes closing of the vehicle doors difficult.
- d) If your staff were to find anything suspicious, notify the Police immediately to verify the ownership or whether it is a stolen vehicle.

3. We seek your kind assistance and cooperation to alert the Police immediately by dialing '999' if urgent Police assistance is required. If you have any further information on the above matter, do not hesitate to contact the **Singapore Police Force** at **1800 – 255 0000**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evon Ng', written over a horizontal line.

**EVON NG
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT DIV
OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT
SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE**

CRIME PREVENTION – A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY