July 7, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution
FROM: Assistant Commissioner Office of Field Operations
SUBJECT: (b)(2), (b)(7)(E) for Child Pornography

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is responsible for ensuring compliance with customs, immigration, and other Federal laws at the border. To that end, CBP officers may examine documents, books, pamphlets, and other printed material, as well as computers, disks, hard drives, and other electronic or digital storage devices. These examinations are part of CBP’s long-standing practice and are essential to uncovering vital law enforcement information, including information regarding child pornography. As part of CBP’s border search authority, CBP may perform an examination of a subject’s electronic device.

This operational guidance does not alter the authority or ability of CBP officers to seize, disseminate, or retain documents and information in electronic media in the possession of all international travelers where there is probable cause to believe that such documents or information constitute evidence of a crime or are otherwise subject to seizure and forfeiture.

(b)(2), (b)(7)(E)

(b)(2), (b)(7)(E) has been successfully used by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to review information on electronic devices for violations of law.

CBP officers at the designated ports of entry will have the ability, upon supervisory approval, to screen electronic devices (b)(2), (b)(7)(E) provided to the field. (b)(2), (b)(7)(E)

The use of all other Document Media Screening equipment will continue to be (b)(2), (b)(7)(E)

(b)(2), (b)(7)(E) If suspect material is found, CBP officers will follow locally established policy and procedures for referring child pornography.
As part of the Securing America's Borders at Ports of Entry (SABPOE) strategic plan, this effort is linked to 11 - Situational Awareness and Information Sharing Strategic Initiative and Milestone 11.2 – Develop and fully implement tools and processes for officers.

Thank you for your continued assistance. If you have any questions, please contact [redacted] or have a member of your staff contact [redacted].

Attachment