Seals for sea freight

You must attach a seal to each secure container. This document will guide you through the process of applying a SES seal to a sea freight container.

Seals for air freight are different. If you require information about how to apply seals to air freight packages, please refer to the accompanying 'Seals for air freight' document.

Approved seals
Customs has approved specific cable bolts that meets SES security requirements.

Customs approved cable bolts have the following security features:
- Unique seal identifier number
- Acts as a tamper indicating device
- Not easily duplicated or compromised without considerable time, effort, or expense
- Complies with ISO 17712 Security (S) or High Security (H) mechanical standard

Joint Customs/ Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) SES 2K Cable bolt seal

Mega Fortris SES 2K NZAEO Cable bolt seal

Mega Fortris SES Klicker bolt seal

SES UNISTO Klicker bolt seal

Seal register
You must maintain a seal register that records the following:

- Unique seal number
- Date seal was received
- Date seal was applied
- Container number to which seal was applied
- Name of the person who applied the seal

Newly received seals must immediately be recorded in the seal register.

If a seal is damaged or broken, a new seal should be used, and this must be recorded in the seal register. The damaged or broken seal can be disposed of (unless it is a combined SES/MPI seal, as MPI require the damaged seal to be retained).

If a seal needs to be removed after application (prior to the container leaving loading site) then a new seal should be used, and this must be recorded in the seal register.

For secure load sites only: If you are packing for multiple SES partners, you may maintain either a combined seal register or separate registers for each partner. A SES team member will discuss this with you, as part of their site visit.

An example seal register template is available on our website within the SES section under Resources.
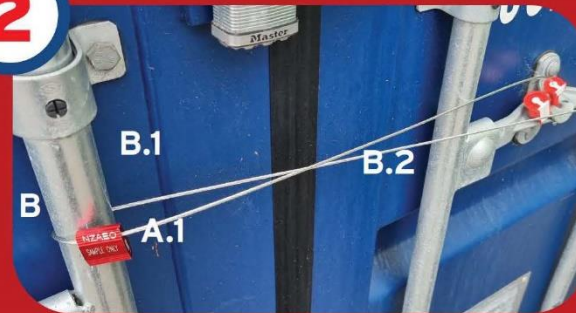
How to apply a seal
The recommended method for applying a seal is different depending on whether the container latches in the middle or at the bottom.
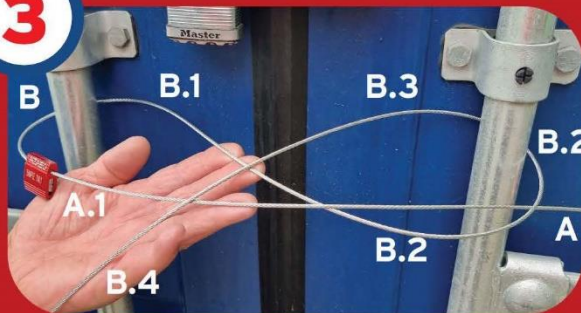
Follow the instructions below for applying a seal to a middle-latching container.

1 — Secure and lock the bolt seal on the right-hand door. When locking, listen for a click and try to pull apart.

2 — Wrap cable B over & under the left side inner pole towards B.2, and over the top of right side inner pole.

3 — Feed cable under the right-side inner pole to B.3 & feed cable end into the red locking body.

4 — Pull hand tight only.

Follow the instructions below for applying a seal to a bottom-latching container.

1 Install the bolt seal at the bottom of the right-hand door inside locking bar cam.

2 Feed cable over and under the inside bar on the left door, then back towards the inside bar on the right door.

3 Feed cable over and under the right-side inside bar and back towards the red square locking body.

4 Feed cable end through holes on red square locking body and gently pull hand tight.

NOTE
▸ Cable should end in a figure eight.
▸ Cable should be pulled firm however do not over tighten.
▸ Numbers on the bolt seal and red square locking body should be facing out.

Checking an applied seal

You are required to check that the seal has been correctly applied. Seal checks can be remembered using the acronym V.V.T.T. — View and Verify, Tug and Twist.

View and Verify — Look at the container and seal locking mechanism to check for damage and confirm that the container number and seal number matches your documentation.

Tug and Twist — Pull the cable block, turn the clicker bolt. Physically check the seal to ensure that it has been fastened tightly and is intact.

The V.V.T.T. check will also be carried out by your transport operator when the container is collected.