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**Title** : S'pore logistics companies trying out device tracking container movement  
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SINGAPORE : The government's calls to take maritime and port security seriously have not fallen on deaf ears.

A special security device used by the US Department of Defence to track nearly 800 ships in 60 countries is now being tried out by logistics companies in Singapore to keep track of their containers.

The device is aimed at ensuring terrorist do not get their hands on cargo containers out at sea.

Singapore's port has been ranked the busiest in the world time and again.

With thousands of containers passing through its port each day, it is no surprise that security is a major concern, especially with the global concerns over weapons of mass destruction and dirty bombs.

Among the latest security devices being tested out at Sembcorp's logistics centre is the Smart and Secure Tradelane, a gadget which the US Defense Department has been using for ten years already.

It is a lock which uses an e-seal.

Once this container is sealed with a lock at the logistics centre, information about what goods it contains is entered into a PDA.

Once the container leaves Singapore's ports, it is closely monitored wherever it stops until it reaches its destination.

This is done with the help of radio frequency identification.

The logistics centre which loaded the goods, is then able to track the movement of the container at every port the cargo stops at.

Any attempt to tamper with the seal will automatically be relayed to the PDA, triggering an alert.

"Besides just securing it with the lock, (the intention) is to incorporate it with light, motion as well as temperature sensors. With the sensors incorporated and built in place, you could now even determine if someone has drilled a hole in the container wall," said Lim Chee Kean, President, Savi Technology.

This smart and secure device has so far been tried out in ports like Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore.

And it has reported 100 per cent success - even if the container was just shaken slightly while unloading it.

Said Winson Heng, Managing Director, Bearing Point: "Because of advanced clearance requirements, using the appropriate technology as well as the solutions will actually result in more cost benefit to the organisation and alternately to the customers." - CNA

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