



# Cybersecurity Alert

## Sector Los Angeles – Long Beach

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### GPS Jamming & Spoofing

Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach is aware of GPS jamming and spoofing incidents in the Ports of Los Angeles-Long Beach caused by illegal use of GPS jamming devices by port truck drivers to circumvent monitoring activities.

The use of signal jammers pose danger to maritime transportation facilities operation, radio communications, GPS position and timing, as well as aircraft and vessel navigation.

Referencing the FCC Jammer Enforcement Alert dated April 2020, **Federal law prohibits the operation, marketing, or sale of any type of jamming equipment that interferes with authorized radio communications, including cellular and Personal Communication Services (PCS), police radar, and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).**<sup>i</sup>

Signal jamming devices can prevent you and others from making 9-1-1 and other emergency calls and pose serious risks to public safety communications, as well as interfere with other forms of day-to-day communications.<sup>ii</sup>

The use of a phone jammer, GPS blocker, or other signal jamming device designed to intentionally block, jam, or interfere with authorized radio communications is a violation of federal law.<sup>iii</sup>

The use or marketing of a jammer in the United States may subject you to substantial monetary penalties, seizure of the unlawful equipment, and criminal sanctions including imprisonment.<sup>iv</sup>



There are technologies to detect GPS jamming and spoofing in the Ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach.

GPS disruptions or anomalies should be immediately reported to the NAVCEN at <https://go.usa.gov/xQBaw> or via phone at 703-313-5900, 24-hours a day.

### **Applicable Law<sup>v</sup>**

- *The Communications Act of 1934*
  - Section 301 - requires persons operating or using radio transmitters to be licensed or authorized under the Commission's rules (47 U.S.C. § 301).
  - Section 302(b) - prohibits the manufacture, importation, marketing, sale or operation of signal jammers within the United States (47 U.S.C. § 302a(b)).
  - Section 333 - prohibits willful or malicious interference with the radio communications of any station licensed or authorized under the Act or operated by the U.S. Government (47 U.S.C. § 333).
  - Section 501 – allows for substantial monetary fines and criminal sanctions including imprisonment (47 U.S.C. § 501).
  - Section 503 - allows the FCC to impose forfeitures for willful or repeated violations of the Communications Act, the Commission's rules, regulations, or related orders, as well as for violations of the terms and conditions of any license, certificate, or other Commission authorization, among other things (47 U.S.C. § 503).
  - Sections 510 - allows for seizure of unlawful equipment (47 U.S.C. § 510).
- *The Commission's Rules*
  - Section 2.803 - prohibits the manufacture, importation, marketing, sale or operation of unauthorized devices within the United States (47 C.F.R. § 2.803).
  - Section 2.807 - provides for certain limited exceptions, such as the sale to U.S. government users (47 C.F.R. § 2.807).
- *The U.S. Criminal Code* (Enforced by the Department of Justice or Department of Homeland Security)
  - Title 18, Section 545 – prohibits the importation of illegal goods into the United States; subjects the operator to possible fines, imprisonment, or both (18 U.S.C. § 545).
  - Title 18, Section 1362 - prohibits willful or malicious interference to US government communications; subjects the operator to possible fines, imprisonment, or both (18 U.S.C. § 1362).
  - Title 18, Section 1367(a) - prohibits intentional or malicious interference to satellite communications, including GPS; subjects the operator to possible fines, imprisonment, or both (18 U.S.C. § 1367(a)).

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<sup>i</sup> [www.fcc.gov/general/jammer-enforcement](http://www.fcc.gov/general/jammer-enforcement)

<sup>ii</sup> [www.fcc.gov/general/jammer-enforcement](http://www.fcc.gov/general/jammer-enforcement)

<sup>iii</sup> [www.fcc.gov/general/jammer-enforcement](http://www.fcc.gov/general/jammer-enforcement)

<sup>iv</sup> [www.fcc.gov/general/jammer-enforcement](http://www.fcc.gov/general/jammer-enforcement)

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