## Garage Door Scammer Responds

His response: "Kiss ma a\_ \_"

By Tom Wadsworth, Editor



in 2006, we published several stories about scammers who target garage door dealers with phony door orders, bilking dealers out of thousands of dollars. Since then, dealers have forwarded many scammer e-mails to us, revealing that the scams continue.

In October 2009, for example, a garage door dealer in Connecticut

contacted us about a garage door scammer who wanted him to send garage doors to Ghana. Unfortunately, this dealer hadn't read our articles and was swindled out of \$8,000.

In January 2010, another dealer forwarded us the following e-mail that he had just received. To help you identify similar scams, here (at right) is the entire text of the e-mail, with the original spelling and punctuation.

## The Telltale Signs

We immediately reported the e-mail to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). In late January, the FCC contacted Door & Access Systems and advised us of several indicators of this type of fraud. According to the FCC, these scammers:

- 1. Are not too particular about the needed products (whatever is in stock).
- 2. Supply multiple credit card numbers (they're stolen).
- 3. Cannot provide the card's three-digit verification code number.
- 4. Want the goods shipped (often to Africa or a charity).
- 5. Will not fully identify himself and his
- 6. Change delivery or payment after the order is approved.

All these may not apply in every case. We have also noticed that most scammers use sloppy writing and an e-mail address from Yahoo, Gmail, Hotmail, or any free Webbased service.

Be particularly suspicious when someone asks you to charge an additional amount to a credit card, and then wire that same amount to a shipping company. That's when they get your money.

## The Scammer Speaks

After receiving the above e-mail, we called the phone numbers listed and learned that this scammer was hiding behind a phone service for the deaf (as they often do). We could find

From: Johnson Bay [mailto:johnsonbay47@yahoo.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 08:39

Subject: Order

GARAGE DOORS INQUIRY & ORDER....

I am Johnson Bay the owner of Johnson & Bay Pub & Grill and currently under constructing a five (5) star hotel of the Johnson & Bay Pub & Grill. An official grand opening of the new five star Hotel will be come on as soon as completed. And as in my interest will be needing some 10 by 16 non installation not instalment garage doors. I was checking on the best sellers from associates of mine and recommended your company and it was due to this recommendation I send my request over. I would appreciate it a lot if you could get back to me with the kinds/ types of garage doors you have in stock and also what their pricing go for.

You can send me a fax or an e-mail reply back with the information of the garage doors as well as the pricing including sales tax. Advice in your reply if payment with either of my credit cards is okay for the order as that is the only form of payments I can provide for the order.

I will be awaiting for your response.

Kind Regards, Johnson Bay Johnson & Bay Pub & Grill Tel: 1-917-477-3549 Fax: 1-347-438-2919 1-800-428-1840 E-mail:johnsonbay47@yahoo.com

no evidence that "Johnson Bay" or his business actually exist.

We then sent an e-mail to johnsonbay47@ yahoo.com. We identified our magazine and posted links to our online articles about his scam. We also notified the scammer that we had reported his activity to the FCC.

We then said, "Since you will eventually be caught and jailed, it would be wise to discontinue this activity immediately."

To our surprise, the scammer actually replied. Here is his response, exactly as we received it:

"Great..kiss ma ass i guess you have a proof on me as i am purchasing these in cash. I'm in bahamas on holiday.send them out."

## **Seller Beware**

Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised, but the scammer's callous lack of conscience is remarkable. This scammer is (1) abusing a phone service for the deaf, (2) portraying himself as a real business, (3) likely using stolen credit cards, and (4) attempting to bilk small businesses out of thousands of dollars. Plus, when confronted, he brashly says, "kiss ma ass."

What can you do?

- 1. Watch for the telltale signs.
- 2. Report fraud to www.ic3.gov, www.ftc.gov, or 877-FTC-HELP.
- 3. Warn every door dealer you know.

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