



COA Members Newsletter: Issue 45, August 2009

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1. COA Report on Alternative Flooring Materials: 2009 Revision

The COA's "New Materials" Working Group has published the 2009 Revision of its "Report on Alternative Materials for Container Flooring".

The publication summarises developments since the WG's last report in August 2008, while also providing information on the current market for alternative floor materials. A comprehensive list of alternative floor materials and suppliers is published. In addition, the report also provides a comparison table of alternative materials.

COA Members can download the Report and Comparison table from the COA website (www.containerownersassociation.org)

• The COA is also now preparing a report on "Alternative Container Coatings", reviewing the range of environmentally-friendly products available, for publication later this year. Further information from: secretary@containerownersassociation.org

2. COA Flexitank Code of Practice: Two Videos Show why it is Needed

In May, the Container Owners Association published its Code of Practice for the manufacture, testing and operation of flexitanks carried in shipping containers. The Code, which will be formally adopted by the COA from 1 January 2010, will permit flexitank manufacturers and operators to test their products according to criteria acceptable to container operators and to other container owners.

Two videos vividly underline the forces that occur on containerships - and why shipping lines need to ensure that the flexitanks they carry pass impact testing criteria

To view the videos, go to the COA Website (www.containerownersassociation.org) and open the videos in the Flexitank box on the home page.

3. COA Flexitank Rail Impact Testing: Special Rates for COA Members

Following the publication of the COA's Flexitank Code, a number of flexitank companies are now undertaking Rail Impact Tests for Flexitank/Container Combinations. This rail impact test is an essential part of the Code and must be witnessed by a COA-approved Classification Society.

The Rail Impact Test can be undertaken either at the Tüv Süd Rail testing facility in Görlitz, Germany; or at the AAR testing facility in Pueblo, Colorado, USA.

The COA has negotiated special rates for COA Members planning to undertake rail impact testing at the Tüv Süd facility in Görlitz.

For further information about these rates and the arrangements for flexitank testing, Members should contact Peter Hartwig at Tüv Süd, email: peter.hartwig@tuev-sued.de

Further information about the Flexitank Code of Practice can be found on the COA website (www.containerownersassociation.org) or contact secretary@containerownersassociation.org

4. Common Interchange Criteria: Comparative CIC/IICL-5 Off-hire Inspection Criteria Survey now Completed

As regularly reported over the past few months, the COA is undertaking a project to evaluate the difference in off-hire repair work for containers when they are inspected to IICL-5 criteria, compared to when they are inspected according to CIC (the “Common Interchange Criteria”). The COA believes that the whole industry would benefit from a single interchange criteria.

The project involved the comparative inspection of a total of 600 containers worldwide. Some 100 containers (50 20ft dry freight containers and 50 40ft high cube containers) were inspected in each of six depots around the world (two depots in Europe, two in Asia and two in the Americas). Interchange estimate surveys were carried out on these containers, according to both CIC and IICL-5 criteria, so that the difference in estimated repair costs could be measured.

The comparative data has now been received from the participating depots – and will be published in early September 2009.

Further information from secretary@containerownersassociation.org

5. COA Regional Branch Meetings: Australasia and Korea

The COA's Australasian and Korean Regional Branches will be organising Regional Meetings, as follows

- *Australasian Regional Branch Meeting: Thursday 3 December 2009*

The COA's Australasian Regional Branch will organise a 1-day meeting in Sydney on Thursday 3 December 2009.

- *Korean Regional Branch Meeting: Friday 11 December 2009*

The COA's Korean Regional Branch will organise a 1-day meeting in Seoul on Friday 11 December 2009.

6. IMDG Code Amendment 34: Discount for COA Members

COA Members are reminded that IMDG Code Amendment 34 has been available since the end of last year; and it will become mandatory from the 1 January 2010.

Amendment 34 can be purchased through ICHCA International (COA is a Corporate Member of ICHCA), with COA Members receiving a 15% discount.

For further information, contact: Keeley Jones, ICHCA International, email: keeley@ichca.com

7. Cool Logistics 2009: Discount for COA Members

The prospects for reefer containers in the global perishables supply chain will be under the spotlight at 2nd Cool Logistics conference, 28-30 September, Hamburg.

COA Members who are planning to attend can benefit from a 10% discount on the Delegate Registration Fee. To register, go to www.coollogisticsconference.com and type in "COA-MEM" in the ID panel on the registration form.

8. BBC "The Box" Project: Follow its Status and View the Videos

A year ago, the BBC, the British broadcasting organisation, set up a year-long project called "The Box" involving the tracking of a standard shipping container around the world."

The broadcaster branded a 40ft container with the BBC logo and bolted on a GPS transmitter, to track its progress as it criss-crossed the globe. Follow its progress, technical problems - and how it has been affected by the container downturn – on the BBC website. Further information and videos on: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/business/2008/the_box/default.stm

9. New Members

The COA is pleased to welcome the following New Members to the Association:

- **Infinity Bulk Logistics (www.infinity.com.my)** - Infinity offers bulk logistics solutions including flexitanks, silo-to-silo, flexitank and bag-in-box IBCs.
- **Sun Flexitanks - Sundersons Logistics (www.sunlogistics.co.in)** – Sun Logistics provides a range of transport and warehousing services, including: flexitanks, ISO tank containers and freight management
- **Tüv Süd Rail (www.tuev-sued.de)** - Tüv Süd Rail's testing facility in Görlitz offers a range of rail impact tests, including tests for flexitank/container combinations and ISO tank containers