



CONTAINER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

COA Members Newsletter: Issue 42, January 2009

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1. Common Interchange Criteria: Working Group established

At the Hamburg Intermodal 08 Exhibition last month, an Open Forum was organised by the Container Owners Association to discuss the implementation, progress and benefits of CIC – the Common Interchange Criteria. CIC is the common interchange inspection criteria for dry freight containers, endorsed by the COA in June 2008.

The Forum included presentations explaining the reasons for the introduction of the CIC, while also providing details of the benefits of standardised interchange procedures for all sectors of the industry. It was followed by discussion and questions.

Copies of the Hamburg presentation, the Common Interchange Criteria, a comparison of the differences between the CIC, IICL-5 & UCIRC criteria and a “Frequently Asked Questions” document can be downloaded from the COA website (www.containerownersassociation.org).

At the Forum, it was agreed to establish a CIC Working Group, representing the three main industry sectors involved in the Interchange Inspection Process: shipping lines, leasing companies and repair depots. The aim of the WG will be to prepare initial data with regard to the cost savings and increased efficiency permitted by CIC.

Further information about the WG will be published in the February 09 newsletter. The WG's data will be presented to COA Members at the next COA Members Meeting, taking place in Munich on 11 May 2009.

2. COA endorses Flexitank Code of Practice

Also at Intermodal 08, the Container Owners Association formally endorsed the COA Code of Practice for the Manufacture of Flexitanks and the Testing of Flexitank/Container Combinations.

Following extensive consultation with container owners and flexitank companies, the Code was prepared by a Management Implementation Group (MIG) established by the COA Board of Directors. The MIG comprises two shipping lines, two flexitank companies and a classification society. The MIG was convened and chaired by Patrick Hicks, the COA Secretary.

The Code was approved as a Provisional Code of Practice from 1 January 2009. There is a 12 month implementation process, to permit flexitank manufacturers and other flexitank companies to test their Flexitank/Container Combinations, according to the methods laid out in Part 2 of the

Code and to obtain COA certification. The final Recommended Code of Practice will be adopted on 1 January 2010.

At the Hamburg meeting, there was also a presentation by the TÜV Süd Rail Testing Facility (Görlitz, Germany), with details of the testing procedures it is carrying out for flexitanks.

As there will be further updates to the Code, the Management Implementation Group will be maintained - both to permit dialogue with container owners and flexitank manufacturers and also to process future amendments. But the main focus is now to implement the Code as widely as possible, so that it is adopted by all sectors of the industry.

The presentations made at the meeting, together with the COA Flexitank Code of Practice, can be downloaded from the COA website (www.containerownersassociation.org). Further information from Patrick Hicks: secretary@containerownersassociation.org

3. 7th COA Members Meeting: Munich, Monday 11 May 2009

Arrangements are now in place for the 7th COA Members Meeting, taking place at the Sheraton Arabella Park Hotel, Munich on Monday 11 May 2009.

The Meeting will open with a “Welcome to Munich” Reception on Sunday 10 May 2009. The Conference Programme on Monday 11 May will include:

- presentations on developments in the container business
- updates on the COA’s Working Groups and Projects
- reports from the Regional Branches
- and an Open Forum for Members to discuss future COA strategy.

A Registration Form is now on the COA website. Further details will be published in February.

COA 5th Anniversary Reception and Dinner Munich Hofbräuhaus: Monday 11 May 2009

After the Conference on Monday 11 May 2009, the COA is organising a **5th Anniversary Reception and Dinner** at the famous Munich Hofbräuhaus. Open to both COA Members and Non-Members, the Evening will include:

- welcoming cocktail reception on arrival
- traditional Bavarian dinner
- traditional Bavarian music and entertainment

Participants are welcome to reserve their places as individuals or small groups. Companies can also reserve tables of 10 seats for their customers, colleagues and business partners.

Further information about reserving your place, or for booking a table, please visit www.containerownersassociation.org or email: kate@containerownersassociation.org

4. ...and COA Pavilion at Transport Logistic 2009, Munich

The COA Members Meeting takes place on the day before the *transport logistic 09* exhibition (12-15 May 2009). *transport logistic* is now considered to be the world’s largest freight transport and shipping exhibition. In 2007, there were 1582 exhibitors from 57 countries, with 47,636 trade visitors from 118 countries. (For further information, visit: www.transportlogistic.com)

The COA is organising a Container Pavilion within the *transport logistic 09* exhibition.

Members of the COA are invited to participate in the Pavilion as Sponsors. A cost-effective Sponsorship Package is available, offering the following benefits:

- Display Panels/Posters with sponsoring company logos
- Brochure distribution point for promotional brochures
- Use of private Meeting-Rooms (on a time-tabled basis)
- Refreshments served throughout the Event
- Open meeting area for networking
- Editorial Entry & Contact Details in the COA Container Pavilion Catalogue
- Full-page A4 Advertisement in the Container Pavilion Catalogue
- Company Logo and web-link on the COA website
- Company description on the COA website
- Links to *transport logistic 09* website and catalogue

Full details of the COA Container Pavilion Sponsorship Package are available the COA website (www.containerownersassociation.org) or email: kate@containerownersassociation.org

5. China Regional Branch established

The COA Board is pleased to confirm that Fei Weijun, Director of the Waterborne Transport Institute in China's Ministry of Communications, is to establish a China Regional Branch for the COA. Fei Weijun is part of TC6 (China National Technical Committee for Container Standardization), and is also involved in other container related activities, including RFID applications for containers and intermodal developments on the Yangtze River.

6. COA and the IICL Plywood Floor Audit Programme: Update

A total of 17 COA Members have now signed up to participate in the IICL Floor Audit Committee project, which has been running for the last three years.

The project involves IICL auditors assessing manufacturing processes, measuring performance, and providing meaningful feedback to the flooring manufacturers. The auditors report their findings to the IICL upon which IICL members and COA participants are able review and make decisions concerning flooring sourcing for their containers.

By joining this project, COA members benefit in a number of ways:

- Instant access to audits of all of the major floor manufacturers;
- Reduced costs of future audits, because these will be shared with the IICL;
- A greater ability to influence the quality control of the floor manufacturers, as the audits will be viewed and acted on by more container purchasers.

COA Members are invited to join the project. For further information, please contact Nigel Stribley, of Blue Sky Intermodal, who is co-ordinating it (n.stribley@bsiu.com).

• Other news from the IICL: Alternative Floor Designs in Field Trials

The Institute of International Container Lessors (IICL) has, in collaboration with 13 container shipping lines, placed 400 containers into a test program to determine the effectiveness of two alternative floor designs that significantly reduce wood usage in the manufacturing of containers.

Recognizing that the availability and quality of the hardwood used in the flooring of containers was declining, in 2005 IICL members initiated a project with the goal of reducing the quantity of wood used in the floors of new containers by some 50 percent.

In 2007, at its Hong Kong Flooring Forum, the IICL presented five alternative designs, in which the wood used was reduced by this amount. This was achieved with four of the containers having

a combined wood and steel floor; while one contained a floor made completely of steel. The participants which included shipping lines, flooring manufacturers, container manufacturers, as well as other service providers, observed and evaluated the five different designs.

From the results this forum, two of the designs were selected for further evaluation:

- The Beta extended tunnel design with a steel tunnel running down the middle of the container and wood on either side;
- and the Omega design, which alternates longitudinal wood and steel “planks” on the container floor in addition to extended sills in the front and rear.

After further testing and refinement, the two designs were approved by the IICL for a live test to learn if the designs would be serviceable in actual use and acceptable to lines and cargo interests.

A total of 400 containers have been built, 100 20ft and 100 40ft containers of each design, and placed in test service by 13 lines for evaluation during 2009. The lines and the IICL will monitor the effectiveness and durability of the containers, carrying out periodic inspections. Results of the flooring test program and other efforts will be made available upon completion of the one year evaluation period. (www.iicl.org)

7. Intermodal 08, Hamburg

In addition to the CIC Open Forum and Flexitank Code of Practice meetings at Intermodal 08 in Hamburg (www.intermodal-events.com), the COA once again organised a Container Pavilion. The Stand proved to be a popular meeting-place for Members, with considerable interest from prospective Members about the Association’s work

Thanks again to the 2008 Sponsors: Axis Intermodal, Blue Sky Intermodal, Capital Intermodal, International Asset Systems, Intermodal Equipment Associates (Martec International and Van Doorn), Lloyd’s Register, Saejin, Sea Box, Seateq, Suraloc and Unitas Services.

8. Container and Intermodal Exhibition 2009

In view of the difficult economic climate, the organisers of the Containers & Intermodal Exhibition 2009 have postponed their event from February 2009 to July 2009.

The venue remains the Shanghai Everbright Convention & Exhibition Center, but the new dates are now: 28-30 July, 2009. Further information on www.containershanghai.com

9. New COA Directors

The COA has announced the appointment of two new Directors to the Board: Brian Darnowski, Vice President, Global Operations, Triton Container International, Inc; and Luiz Goncalves, Vice-President, Technical and Operations, Florens Container Services

10. New Members

The COA is pleased to welcome the following new members to the Association:

- **Dunker Umwelttechnik & Dienstleistungen** (www.dunker-umwelttechnik.de): Provider of emergency response for damaged flexitank containers; and general claim handling and handling, buying & selling salvage goods
- **Isotanks Worldwide/Chung Min** (www.dgasi.com): Supplier of flexitanks, intermodal equipment, reefers, tank containers, chassis, IBCs and road trailers
- **Unit45** (www.unit45.com): Specialist suppliers of 45 ft containers to the European intermodal industry