



COA Members Newsletter: Issue 44, July 2009

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1. Common Interchange Criteria: Comparative CIC/IICL-5 Off-hire inspection criteria survey now started

A key element of the COA's technical programme is to promote CIC (the "Common Interchange Criteria") as the standard interchange inspection criteria for containers when they are off-hired.

CIC has been adopted for off-hire interchange inspections by a number of the world's leading container leasing companies. The COA has endorsed CIC, on the basis that it is the most appropriate interchange criteria for the container industry.

To monitor the results of CIC and to promote global implementation, the COA last year established a CIC Working Group, representing the three main industry sectors involved in the Interchange Inspection Process: shipping lines, leasing companies and repair depots.

This WG is now 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 project involves the comparative inspection of a total of 600 containers worldwide. This comprises some 100 containers (50 20ft dry freight containers and 50 40ft high cube containers) being inspected in each of six depots around the world (two depots in Europe, two in Asia and two in the Americas).

Interchange estimate surveys will be carried out on these containers, according to both CIC and the IICL-5 criteria, so that the difference in estimated repair cost of the two criteria can be measured.

To ensure a useful and realistic survey sample, certain parameters have been applied for the containers to be inspected:

- Only used containers, in service, will be surveyed
- Where possible, the lease period will be about three years, with no container surveyed being less than 9 months old
- Only containers leased to the top 25 shipping lines will be surveyed (this will avoid those lines where specific operations can lead to "unusual" damage)

The inspection programme commenced in early July and the WG has set a mid-August deadline for the receipt of data from the depots. The results will be published in September.

The following depots are participating in the project:

Asia

OCWS, Singapore
Container System, Hong Kong

Europe

PSA-ACE, Antwerp, Belgium
Remain, Hamburg, Germany

Americas

Tesco, Valparaiso, Chile
Conglobal, Chicago, USA

Further information from secretary@containerownersassociation.org

2. Flexitank Code of Practice: Rail Impact Testing to commence

Following the publication of the Container Owners Association's Flexitank Code of Practice in May, a number of flexitank companies are now preparing to carry out 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.

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

3. Establishment of a COA Technical Committee

The COA is an organisation established to develop industry standards and codes of practice; and to provide its membership with technical information. For this reason, the COA Board of Directors has agreed to establish a COA Technical Committee (TC).

The TC will have three principal roles:

- (a) As a "Helpline" for its members, providing guidance on technical matters. The TC will clearly not take the role of a "Technical Consultant", but will answer specific information requests. No commercially sensitive information will be divulged, nor will the TC make any technical recommendations.
- (b) As the main technical contact point, when the COA is dealing with other relevant industry organisations.
- (c) If there is a need for any technical comments, or mediation, when on Working Group matters. (WGs will continue to be established by the Board and will report directly to the Board)

The Chairman of the COA TC will be Mike Downes. There will be four Committee members: two shipping lines and two leasing companies. Nominations for the Committee are now being accepted

The TC will have a page on the website, which will also include a "Frequently Asked Questions" section.

4. Alternative Materials Working Group: Flooring and Coatings

The Alternative Materials Working Group is now preparing an updated version of its Report on Alternative Flooring Materials, for publication in September 2009.

The COA is also preparing a report on “Alternative Container Coatings”, reviewing the range of environmentally-friendly products available.

Further information from: secretary@containerownersassociation.org

5. 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

6. Cool Logistics 2009: Discount for COA Members

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

For further information about the Conference, including a review of the Issues to be discussed and the keynote speakers, go to: www.containerownersassociation.com.

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.

7. New Members

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

- **Eko Dek Ltd** (www.ekodekflooring.com) – UK-based supplier of alternative marine container floors from non forest tropical woods
- **Qingdao Zhuoyue Container Packaging Material** (www.flexitank.us) – A leading manufacturer of flexitanks, dry bulk liners and IBCs in China
- **Seabreeze Marine Engineers and Consultants**