



CONTAINER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

COA Members Newsletter: Issue 26 – May 2007

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1. Report on the 3rd Australasian Regional Branch Meeting, Sydney

Held on 10 May 2007 at the Amora Hotel, Sydney, the 3rd COA Australasian Regional Branch Members Meeting was a great success. Some 36 delegates representing many different sectors of the industry attended the conference - and the meeting provided them with a unique insight into the COA, its objectives and achievements.

Phil Rosser, from Sydney Ports, discussed current container trends, including Sydney's container growth projections to 2025 and the growing road and rail needs leading up to 2020. He also discussed the role of Sydney Ports in expanding operations to allow for this growth and left the audience thinking about the implications of such rapid developments in the industry with regards to infrastructure requirements.

Richard Sykes, of SCF Containers, then spoke on inland rail operation trends. He provided a brief overview of the recent infrastructure investments being made in rail, including the new railway to Darwin and the Melbourne to Brisbane rail corridor.

Perhaps surprisingly, there is currently no actual legal definition or conceptualisation of what a container is. This issue was raised by Pierre-Jean Bordahandy, a specialist lawyer from the University of Adelaide, who discussed the legal implications of the concept of containers with respect to the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). He discussed the consequences of this lack of legal definition, and suggested possible ways forward to resolve this issue, to the benefit of all in the container industry.

Steve Meyrick, of Meyrick and Associates, spoke on the current trends of the shipping and intermodal industry. He provided statistics that showed that the world container traffic will increase by 7.3% per year, to the year 2015 - and that the Australian trade is increasing at similar rates. He provided evidence that the freight task will double in the period 2000-2025, which will require additional infrastructure and re-structuring, to which he offered some suggestions.

The Sydney Members Meeting also provided members with the opportunity to meet Martin Ferriss of IIR NZ and to hear him speak on New Zealand's Association of Professional Container Depot Operators and Suppliers. This organisation's aims are similar to that of the COA and the COA is looking forward to working more closely with them in the future.

Other speakers in the morning session were made by: Shane Watson, of Braid Logistics; Robert Brown, GRAMMS RFID and Dr Rob Mann of Ensis.

Following the first sessions of the Meeting, during which insights into the container industry and the outlook for the future were discussed, a working group forum was held. A number of relevant issues were discussed in this forum, including: recertification of containers, container specifications and the handling and securing of loads. There was good debate on these issues and it has given the COA a good direction to move forward. One of the tasks of a COA technical director will be to prepare a paper, for submission to Standards Australia, detailing the COA's position on these issues.

Full Report and Presentations: The Full Report of the Meeting can be found on the COA Website - www.containerownersassociation.org
COA Members can also download all the presentations made at the meeting from the website.

2. COA Repair Working Group Meeting – Rotterdam, 26 April 2007

56 persons attended the COA Repair Working Group meeting in Rotterdam on 26 April, representing 19 Member companies and 15 Associate Member companies. Presentations were made by:

- Erik Chatel from Capital Lease
- Dr Roland Karnbach from the German depot organisation BCSB
- Martin Schoeler from Hamburg Sud
- Jørn Heerulff, chairman of ISO TC104/SC4/WG3 Electronic Interchange

The delegate packs included hand-outs from:

- ConGlobal Industries (ISO Code Standardisation Project and message formats)
- The ISO (ISO/CD 9897-6 Freight containers – Container equipment data exchange (CDEDEX) - Part 6 – Message sets for data transfer)
- Submission from the IIR (New Zealand)

During the meeting, there was a wide-ranging discussion, covering such items as:

- The theory of standard codes: it sounds good, but will the reality be that owners will continue to use their existing codes?
- How do we get the owners to accept and use the code combinations?
- The repair codes needs to provide sufficient flexibility and should be simple but not over simplified, while at the same time requesting too much data or making them too complex could increase the time to produce estimated
- It is important to include the estimator's point of view in the development of the repair combinations
- EDI messages are not all the same at present and it would be useful to provide package that catered for most users without the various fields being used for different data required by individual owners
- A common approach to the data transmitted in the header message also needs to be rationalised and extended to provide the require information about the containers
- Standard messages will allow depots to produce a single message which can be transmitted to owners and users (especially lessees and lessors)
- Should ISO component codes include material and or location within them?
- Should technology developments be included in the Working Group discussions?

A full report on the Working Group meeting, together with a copy of all the presentations and handouts, can be found on the COA Website – www.containerownersassociation.org

3. Status Report: COA Coatings Code of Practice

Coatings specialists Lithgow Associates were commissioned by the Container Owners Association to develop a comprehensive Painting Code of Practice (CoP) for containers. It had been suggested by the COA that the development of the CoP should:

- (a) Ideally not increase current manufacturing costs;
- (b) Achieve a 10-year coating performance cycle to first maintenance (excluding damage repairs, etc); and
- (c) Integrate into the CoP various international standards where appropriate

During March, Peter Morgan of Lithgow undertook an appraisal of two container fabrication plants – a reefer container factory and a dry box factory - in Shanghai. This was undertaken in conjunction with, and with the full support of, CIMC.

The reefer plant visit highlighted a number of quality control deficiencies that could be easily rectified and improvements will be suggested in a forthcoming report. However, the dry box facility had significant issues that need to be addressed as part of the CoP preparation.

A meeting is being arranged later this month (May) with sponsors and interested parties to discuss the visit; issues raised and formulate an outline CoP. *An update on the project together with a planning meeting will be presented at the COA Members Meeting in Paris (26/27 June).*

Sponsorship Funding for this project has so far been committed by two coatings companies:

- Hempel Marine Paints
- Chugoku Marine Paints

4. 5th COA Members Meeting – Paris, 26/27 June 2007

Delegates are continuing to register for the COA's 5th Members Meeting, taking place in Paris on 26/27 June. **Registrations are welcome from both COA Members and Non-Members.** The final programme has now been published and the meeting will cover a wide range of issues.

The Meeting includes:

- "Welcome to Paris" Reception on the Evening of Monday 25 June
- Keynote Presentations covering topical industry issues
- Working Group Sessions on: Coatings, Repair, Tagging, Flooring, Flexitanks
- A "Container Safety" seminar, organised by ICHCA's International Safety Panel

Delegates wishing to book a room at the Meridien Montparnasse should confirm their room reservation before 22 May

Further information, including a detailed Conference Programme, Registration Form and Hotel Booking Form can be found on <http://www.containerownersassociation.org>

5. New Members

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

- **Environmental Packaging Technologies (www.enviropactech.com)** – suppliers of bulk liquid shipping solutions, flexitanks and IBCs