



CONTAINER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

COA Members Newsletter: Issue 43, May 2009

1. COA publishes Flexitank Code of Practice
2. Implementation of Common Interchange Criteria: Working Group Status
3. ITCO unveils latest tank container research in Munich
4. Container theft alert
5. Update on BBC's "The Box" project
6. 2009 COA Members Meeting: Monitoring the situation
7. New Members

1. COA publishes Flexitank Code of Practice

The Container Owners Association has 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.

The Code is divided into five sections, covering:

- Container Selection for Flexitank/Container Combination
- Test Criteria for Flexitank/Container Combination and for Flexitank Materials
- Container and Flexitank Marking
- Incident Management and Insurance
- Training

In addition, an Appendix to the Code gives details of COA Rail Impact Flexitank/Container Combination Testing procedures.

The Code can be downloaded from the COA website (www.containerownersassociation.org). A detailed review of the Code is also available

2. Implementation of Common Interchange Criteria: Working Group Update

In June 2008, the COA formally adopted and endorsed the "Common Interchange Criteria" (CIC) as its recommended container interchange inspection standard.

As part of the COA's work to promote the benefits of CIC as a standard container interchange criteria to the whole industry, the COA organised an Open Forum in December 2008 to discuss the implementation, progress and benefits of CIC. 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. The COA also published on its website a comparison of the differences between the Common Interchange Criteria, the IICL-5 Criteria and UCIRC.

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

The WG is now engaged in a project to measure the difference in estimated repair costs, comparing the Common Interchange Criteria with the IICL-5 criteria. Comparative surveys of 20ft and 40ft High Cube containers will be undertaken in depots in Europe, North America and Asia. 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.

Once the project ends, the results of the analysis posted on the COA website.

3. ITCO to promote safe, green and efficient tank containers in Munich

The International Tank Container Organisation (ITCO) will unveil a new tranche of industry knowledge on intermodal tank containers in three specialist presentations to be made at the Transport Logistic 2009 event in Munich on 12-15 May 2009.

Two of the papers highlight recent studies which bring together a wide range of established knowledge to explain why tank containers are the safest, most reliable and efficient means of transporting bulk liquids, powders and gases. The third presentation will break completely new ground by describing how tank containers have a lower 'carbon footprint' than alternative forms of transport.

The three presentations, which will be given by industry experts responsible for their compilation, are as follows:

- a. "Safe Handling of Tank Containers"
- b. "Raising the Profile of Tank Containers with Deepsea Shipping Lines"
- c. "The Environmental Impact of Tank Containers Compared to Alternative Forms of Transport"

ITCO will once again have its own Tank Container Village at the Transport Logistic Exhibition. The Special Tank Container Seminar at which the three ITCO presentations will be made will take place in a conference room adjacent to the Tank Village on 13 and 14 May.

For further information about the ITCO Tank Container Village and the three presentations, click [HERE](#) or go to: <http://www.itco.be/download/ITCOMunich2009PressRelease.pdf>

4. TT Club: Container Theft

A recent issue of "TT Talk", the publication of COA Member TT Club, reports of the recent theft in Hong Kong of 45ft containers from a shipping line. The line was approached by a shipper who booked six 45ft dry freight containers all in one order. The shipper was a new client. In spite of this, the shipping line neither visited the shipper's premises to check whether he might be genuine nor obtained a bank guarantee for the value of the containers. Instead, the shipping line released all six containers to the shipper's named trucking company on the day of the order.

The shipper and all six containers disappeared three days later without a trace. The shipping line reported the case to the police who started a criminal investigation and made known that other carriers had reported similar thefts recently.

The TT Club reports that in Hong Kong, thefts specifically of 45ft containers are increasing.

Most carriers have drafted internal procedures on the handling of larger bookings from new customers, but it is essential that these procedures are actually put in place. The TT Club's sheet 'Stop Loss 7 - Container Loss' provides more information on how to prevent container theft.

Click [HERE](#) to download the document free of charge from the Club's website in English, Russian and Chinese.

5. Update on the BBC's project "The Box"

As previously, the BBC, the British broadcasting organisation, is running a year-long project called "The Box". The broadcaster has painted and branded a 40ft container with the BBC logo and bolted on a GPS transmitter, so its progress can be tracked.

For further information, including a video of the container arriving in the Port of Yokohama, click on <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/8027126.stm>. Background information on the project is available on http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/business/2008/the_box/default.stm

6. 2009 COA Members Meeting: Monitoring the Situation

Recognising the unprecedented market conditions in the container shipping business, the 2009 COA Members Meeting (originally scheduled for May) was postponed. The COA Board of Directors are monitoring the situation and will decide in the next few months if a 2009 Meeting will take place later this year.

7. New Members

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

- **Andesocean Europe** (www.andesocean.com)
- **BLC Industries** (www.blcflex.com):
- **Global Liners** (www.globalliners.nl):