



CONTAINER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

COA Members Newsletter: Issue 40, October 2008

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1. COA Stand at Intermodal 08, Hamburg

The COA will again be exhibiting the Intermodal Exhibition, which this year takes place at the Hamburg Messe, Germany, on 2-4 December 2008 (www.intermodal-events.com).

The COA is one of Intermodal 2008's Supporting Organisations and we look forward to welcoming Members, Prospective Members, Conference Delegates, Exhibitors and Visitors to our Stand – A32. To register for the exhibition, click on: www.intermodal-events.com/register

The costs of the COA stand are covered by sponsorship from COA Members. This year's sponsoring companies are as follows:

- 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
- Unitas Services

Further information about the COA stand on www.containerownersassociation.org

2. Common Interchange Inspection Criteria: Open Forum on 4 December

As reported in the September 2008 newsletter, the COA will be organising a meeting in Hamburg on Thursday 4 December, to discuss the implementation and progress of CIC, the common interchange inspection criteria for dry freight containers. The meeting will take place from 09:00 to 11:00 and is open to all interested parties. Presentations will cover the reasons behind the introduction of the CIC, while also giving appropriate details of the benefits that standardization of interchange procedures is bringing to the industry.

The CIC document is on the COA website (www.containerownersassociation.org) as a PDF. In addition, there is also a comparison sheet, indicating the differences between CIC, UCIRC (the shipping line industry's in-service inspection standard) and the IICL-5 criteria.

3. Flexitank Code of Practice: Status Report...

The development of a COA-recommended Code of Practice for Flexitanks is continuing to progress. The COA Board has agreed the formation of a 6-person Management Implementation Group (MIG), consisting of a Chairman (Patrick Hicks, the COA Secretary), together with representatives from the shipping line, flexitank and classification society sectors.

This MIG is meeting in early November, when it will finalise a Draft Code of Practice, integrating two sets of interim proposals (one proposed by the flexitank industry, and an alternative set proposed by shipping line representatives) together with a more detailed 5-part proposal, prepared jointly by TOD and Braid earlier this year..

The Board has requested that this integrated, provisional, Code of Practice should then be circulated to relevant COA members (shipping lines and flexitank companies), for comment and feedback by 22 November.

4. ...and Meeting for COA Members on 4 December in Hamburg

Based on the Feedback received by the Management Implementation Group, the MIG will meet again at the end of November to take in comments and feedback, and to prepare a final draft.

The COA Board have asked for this final Proposed Code of Practice to be presented at a meeting, open to COA members only, which will take place from 11:30 on Thursday 4 December.

The intention is that this Code of Practice will be agreed by the COA Board of Directors and will be endorsed by the COA Membership.

Naturally, there may be further refinements to the Code thereafter, and the Management Implementation Group will be maintained. But the main focus will then turn to implementation of the Code as widely as possible, so that it is adopted by all sectors of the industry.

5. COA and the IICL Plywood Floor Audit Programme

Some 15 COA Members have so far signed up to participate in the IICL Floor Audit Committee project and a COA member has been nominated as a representative to sit on the Committee.

By joining this project, which undertakes audits of plywood floor manufacturers, 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; and 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. The IICL is providing immediate access to the floor audits already undertaken by IICL members

The IICL will be exhibiting at Intermodal 2008 in Hamburg in December, and there will be a joint display with the COA, providing information about the project and highlighting how the COA and IICL are co-operating on it.

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).

6. 2009 COA Members Meeting: your opinion is requested

The 7th COA Members Meeting will take place in Europe next year. Members have recently been sent a questionnaire, asking for their preferred choice of venue and dates for the Meeting.

There are two options:

Option 1: Members Meeting in Munich on Monday 11 May 2009 (the day prior to the Transport Logistic 2009 exhibition)

Option 2: Members Meeting in a dedicated container port environment, such as Rotterdam or Antwerp, in June 2009

To ensure a successful event, which meets the needs of the COA Members, the Board is requesting your feedback. If you would like to give your choice or comment, please contact kate@containerownersassociation.org who will send you a copy of the questionnaire.

7. The BBC's "Box" goes East

As reported in the September newsletter, 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 its latest position as it heads East, click on the project's website: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/business/2008/the_box/default.stm

8. New Members

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

- **M.Y. Flexitanks** (www.myflexitank.com): Supplier of bulk liquid flexitank solutions
- **International Container Pool** (www.icpcontainer.com): Provider of container leasing services