



CONTAINER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

COA Members Newsletter: Issue 39, September 2008

1. Common Interchange Inspection Criteria published
2. CIC Implementation Programme
3. COA New Materials Working Group Publishes 4th Revision to its Report on Alternative Flooring Materials
4. COA participates in the IICL Plywood Floor Audit Programme
5. CSC Training Programme
6. BIC 75th Anniversary Congress: Malta, 6 & 7 October 2008
7. COA Stand at Intermodal 2008, Hamburg
8. 1st COA Korea Regional Branch Meeting: presentations available
9. 4th COA Australasian Regional Branch Meeting: conference papers published
10. 7th COA Members Meeting: Munich, Monday 11 May 2009
11. Follow "The Box" with the BBC
12. New Members

1. Common Interchange Inspection Criteria published...

In June 2008, the COA endorsed the Common Interchange Criteria, an aligned interchange inspection criteria for dry freight containers. Developed after two years detailed research of container damage by several of the world's largest leasing companies, the revised inspection criteria is based upon UCIRC (the shipping line industry's in-service inspection standard) and the Institute of International Container Lessors' IICL-5 interchange standard.

CIC can now be downloaded from 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.

2. ...and CIC Implementation Programme developed

This alignment between container operators and leasing companies is intended to simplify operations, improve repair depot efficiency, cut down on unnecessary repairs and reduce confusion among surveyors and estimators, leading to greater accuracy of estimates and a higher level of consistency in the quality of containers delivered to operators.

Implementation of CIC will be undertaken through a programme of education and training. As part of the agreement, the CIC standard will be reviewed on an on-going basis.

An Open Forum for all interested companies - in which the development, aims and implementation of CIC will be explained and discussed - will be organised by the COA in Hamburg on Thursday 4th December 2008, at the time of Intermodal 2008. Further information about the meeting will be announced in early October.

3. COA New Materials Working Group publishes 4th Revision to its Report on Alternative Flooring Materials

The COA's "New Materials" Working Group has published the 4th Revision of its "Report on Alternative Materials for Container Flooring".

The publication summarises developments since the WG's last report in June 2007, while also providing a detailed list of the current market for floor materials.

A list is provided of alternative floor materials and suppliers, while the report also provides a table comparing the alternative materials

COA Members can download a PDF of the Report from the COA website (www.containerownersassociation.org)

4. COA participates in the IICL Plywood Floor Audit Programme

Earlier this year, a group of COA members made initial plans to set up a programme to audit the major Chinese container floor manufacturers, because of concerns over the quality of the plywood floors being fitted in containers.

As a result of this initiative, the Institute of International Container Lessors (IICL) has invited the members of this COA programme to join its Floor Audit Committee, by appointing a COA member as its nominated representative on the Committee. The COA representative will be Marc Weidemann, Senior Manager Container Engineering / M&R, Hapag-Lloyd, who is also heading the COA's New Materials Working Group. The IICL is also providing immediate access to the floor audits already undertaken by IICL members.

There are several benefits to COA members of joining the IICL on this project: instant access to audits of all of the major floor manufacturers; reduced costs of audits in the future because they 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 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).

5. CSC Training Programme - status

As indicated in the June 2008 COA newsletter, the COA is making plans to offer a CSC training and awareness programme, which will explain the general aspects of the CSC to participants and update them on latest developments. The Course will highlight the main areas of the Convention, and provide an insight into its legal requirements.

Although the Convention for Safe Containers is an integral part of container operations and safety, there are probably many people working in different sectors of the industry who would like to have an update on the Convention. The course will be structured for technical and operations managers from all sectors of the container business, including: shipping lines, leasing companies, intermodal operators, repair depots, port control officers and terminal safety managers

The course will be offered as both an in-house training session and externally for participants from different companies. Topics to be covered include: Introduction to the Convention for Safe Containers; Container Approval; Maintenance Schemes; Shipper-Owned Containers; Serious Structural Deficiencies; Stopping Containers; Sale and end of life containers

Course details will be finalised after the meeting of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC), taking place end-September, where CSC is under discussion. Any developments relating to CSC will be incorporated in the Course, which are planned to be launched from October 2008 onwards.

If your company would like to organise an in-house course or attend an external course, please contact the COA Secretariat for further information (secretary@containerownersassociation.org)

6. BIC 75th Anniversary Congress: Malta, 6 & 7 October 2008

To celebrate its 75th anniversary B.I.C. (Bureau International des Containers et du Transport Intermodal) is organising a Congress in Malta on October 6 and 7, 2008.

The theme of the Conference will be “New Challenges to Trade” and will see high level experts addressing participants on issues related to Environment, Security, Investment and Infrastructure.

Attendance is free of charge, while special rates have been negotiated for hotel and flights. For more information visit www.bic-code.org or mail to malta2008@bic-code.org

7. COA Stand at Intermodal 2008, Hamburg – Sponsorship Packages available

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

COA Members wishing to become Stand Sponsors can find further information on the COA website, or contact secretary@containerownersassociation.org for more details.

8. 1st Korea Regional Branch Meeting: Presentations available

The COA's Korea Regional Branch organised its First Meeting for container companies on Thursday 15 May 2008.

The meeting was opened by BJ Chun, COA Korea Regional Branch Director, who gave participants latest information about the COA. There were further presentations on: E-seals & RFID; Floors, Coatings and Dry Container Refurbishing; SuperRack Container; Sliding Open Top Container; EQ Interchange; COA Container Specification; and COA Repair.

COA Members can download the presentations (mainly in Korean) from the COA website.

9. 4th COA Australasian Branch Meeting: Conference Papers Published

The COA's Australasian Regional Branch organised its 4th Members Meeting in Melbourne on Wednesday 21 May 2008. With over 40 participants, the Meeting included sessions on a range of issues relevant to COA Members, covering developments in the Container Ports, Shipping, Rail and Trucking sectors.

There was an update on the work being undertaken by the COA through its Working Groups, including Equipment Interchange Inspection Criteria, Flexitanks, Door Locking Gear, CSC and the Environment. Members can download the Conference Delegate Pack from the COA website.

10. 7th COA Members Meeting: Munich, 11 May 2009

Preliminary plans are now being made for the 7th COA Members Meeting, which will take place in Munich on Monday 11 May 2009.

The venue will be the Sheraton München Arabellapark Hotel. Following the Members Meeting, the COA will be organising a Container Pavilion in the Transport Logistic 09 exhibition, taking place in Munich from 12-14 May. (www.transportlogistic.de)

11. Follow “The Box” with the BBC

The BBC, the British broadcasting organisation, has just started a year-long project – called “The Box” which it says will “tell the story of international trade and globalisation by tracking a standard shipping container around the world.”

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 all year round as it criss-crosses the globe. The Box will hopefully reach the US, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa; and when it does BBC correspondents will be there to report on who is producing goods and who is consuming them.

Further information and videos on: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7600180.stm>

12. New Members

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

- **Cargostore International** (www.cargostore.com): Cargostore International provides shipping and storage containers for sale and lease on a worldwide basis
- **DuPont Huajia Chemical** (www.dupont.com): Supplier of powder-based coatings systems
- **Seateq** (www.seateq.com): Services include container lease, sale, purchase and tracking