



CONTAINER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

COA Members Newsletter: Issue 27 – June 2007

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1. Container Industry Prepares to Meet in Paris

Some 60 participants have now registered for the COA's *5th Members Meeting* in Paris on Tuesday 26 June and Wednesday 27 June. The Event includes:

- A "Welcome to Paris" Reception on the Evening of Monday 25 June
- Keynote Presentations covering topical issues of relevance to container owners
- Working Group Sessions on: Container Coatings, Repair and Flooring
- A Members Forum to discuss future COA strategy and issues
- A 1-day Container Safety seminar, organised by ICHCA's International Safety Panel

The Event Programme, Delegate Registration Form, current Participants List and Hotel Booking Form, can be found on the COA website (www.containerownersassociation.org)

2. Keynote Presentations Cover Topical Issues

The keynote sessions at the Paris meeting cover a range of issues, including containership design, container fleet sizes, reefer containers, legal issues relating to containers and the image of ports and shipping

The first speaker will be David Tozer, Manager, Container Ships, Lloyd's Register who will discuss the topics of "Design Challenges of Large Container Ships". He will be followed by Capt. Herbert Soanes, Research & Strategic Planning, DVB Bank, who will review the impact of trade development on the global container fleet size. The third speaker will be Robert Heap, President Cambridge Refrigeration Technology, who will discuss developments in reefer container technology.

The second part of the morning session will commence with a presentation about the legal issues of containers, given by Pierre-Jean Bordahandy, Lecturer at the Law School, University of Adelaide.

Finally, a presentation entitled: "Improving the Public Perception of the Ports and Shipping Industry" will be made by Patrick Verhoeven, Secretary-General of the European Sea Ports Organisation; and Prof. Dr. Eric Van Hooydonk, Chairman of the European Institute of Maritime and Transport Law at the University of Antwerp. Patrick and Eric are co-authors of **The Ports Portable** guide to the port cities of Antwerp, Rotterdam and Hamburg.

3. Working Group Sessions: Flooring, Coatings and Repair

Flooring

After lunch, the progress of the Container Flooring Working Group will be reviewed, including a report on AQIS/Ensis biocide testing programme for container floors, which has been taking place in recent months.

The meeting will then divide into Parallel Sessions for two Working Groups: Container Coatings and Container Repair

Container Coatings

Led by Peter Morgan of Lithgow Associates, this will take the form of an interactive session to seek consensus of opinion together with any viewpoints of interested parties on the drafting of the Coatings Code of Practice (CoP)

The subjects to be covered will be:

- Impending and existing VOC legislation and the industry attempt to reduce VOC emissions. **Dr Peter Morris** one of the UK's leading experts on VOC emission legislation will give an update on European led initiatives
- Development of a material fingerprinting technique to ensure material compliance
- Improvements in production line quality control
- Improvements and recognition of training and certification of coating inspectors
- Addressing problems identified during the recent factory appraisal undertaken by Peter Morgan
- Advances in and advantages of surface pre-treatment technology (Speaker from Chemetall)
- Outlining a material test programme (phase three of the project) to select future approved materials
- To form a working committee to prepare and finalize phase 2 (Code of Practice) and phase 3 Preparation of a material test programme

Container Repair

The WG will cover three main topics

- COA Recommended Standard for the Transfer of Repair Data

Further progress on the development of a “COA Recommended Standard for the Transfer of Repair Data” (Progress following the COA Repair WG in Rotterdam will be explained). At present, many owners use different systems for reporting container repair information. A standard system would be more efficient for the industry. While this is unlikely to be achieved in the short-term, there would be a benefit in a COA-recommended format, which would gradually be used by the industry in years to come

- COA Recommended Standard Repair Times

- Last year, the COA introduced Recommended Standard Repair Times (Shipping Lines and Leasing Companies)
- Can a single “COA-Recommended Standard Repair Times” document now be agreed by all sectors of the industry? How would this be implemented?

- COA Recommended Depot Code of Practice

- A proposed “COA Recommended Depot Code of Practice” will be presented

4. Members Forum: An opportunity to discuss future COA strategy

The Members Forum at the end of Day 1 will provide an opportunity for COA Members to discuss COA activities and communicate their ideas, views and opinions to the COA Board and fellow members on relevant issues. Discussion points will include:

- A review of progress on Working Groups - technical issues, development of industry standards and introduction of Code of Practice agreements
- Members' opinions and requirements from COA Members Meetings – structure, location, timing, content, etc. What follow-up is there to discussion at Members Meetings?
- Use of the website to publish information for Members and Non-Members
- Communication and interaction – newsletters, WG meetings, web forums, etc

5. Container Safety Seminar on Day 2

The Container Safety Seminar on Wednesday 27 June is being run by the International Safety Panel of ICHCA, and will be presented by: **Mike Compton, Chairman of the ISP**; **Mike Bohlman**, Chairman of ISO TC/104; and **George Fawcett**, Equipment Claims Director, TT Club

It will cover recent matters dealt with by ISP and others planned, including: vertical tandem lifting, liftlocks, integrity of construction, recent damages found to corner castings, horizontal inter-box connectors; and handling containers in a low throughput situation.

Publications, current and planned, relating to freight container safety will be reviewed, followed by an analysis of initiatives, including the MARIN Project, and concerns about packaged dangerous goods. Insurance developments will be reviewed including recent claims experience and concerns of insurers

An important session on Standards will cover recent changes to ISO standards relating to freight containers, including: ISO 3874 Handling and Securing of Freight Containers, Security, 45ft boxes, Inspection standards, Seals, Corner casting damage and the outcomes of the TC/104 Plenary meeting in Korea in May

After a presentation of the video “Any fool can stuff a container”, the final session of the conference will focus on international legislation, including recent concerns at IMO and recent actions at IMO, including: criteria for declaring that a freight container is unsafe to be allowed to continue its journey; the development of an international standard for the safe securing of deck containers on purpose built container ships; and ACEPs

6. Flexitank Working Group meeting – 28 June

The COA is organising an inaugural Flexitank Working Group Meeting on Thursday 28 June 2007, the day after the 5th Members Meeting. The Meeting is open to all interested container and flexitank companies.

At present, the flexitank industry has no independent body or trade association which can promote standards in the industry, or lobby other commercial or public sectors. The COA has been asked to consider undertaking two initiatives:

- (a) To provide a forum to investigate operational standards and issues, particularly with regard to the impact of occasional friction vis-à-vis container bulging or damage to container side-walls

- (b) To establish a “Flexitank Working Group” or “Flexitank Association” - as part of the COA - utilising the COA’s expertise and organisational resources. The remit of this WG or Association will be discussed at this meeting – but one of its aims would be to develop a COA-recommended Code of Practice for the flexitank industry, covering such issues as: safe operations, testing, training, safety, environment

Further information, including Meeting Agenda, Registration Form and current Participants List, can be found on the COA website – www.containerownersassociation.org

7. European Commission/45ft containers

The COA Secretariat has received a few enquiries in recent months about the status of 45ft container in Europe. At the end of last year, the European Commission published two documents on this subject; these have now been posted on the COA website (Members Area)

8. New Museum seeks Container Artefacts

A group of international maritime industry leaders associated with transportation pioneer Malcom McLean has kicked-off a campaign to collect artefacts, historical data and documents for a public museum and research centre about the history of containerization in the maritime world.

The McLean Container Center at Kings Point, NY is seeking to acquire, preserve and share material with historians, industry, researchers, students and public. The Center is named for the late Malcom McLean, container pioneer and founder of Sea-Land.

"The story of the container industry is a spectacular one," said Center Chairman Paul F. Richardson, "but for all the immense benefits it has brought to the world, it's still less understood than it should be. The shipping container is called the box that changed the world - and not just maritime commerce. It changed global economies, societies and cultures too."

The McLean Container Center will be maintained at the American Maritime Museum and Bland Library at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y.

The Center has an 11-member executive committee comprised of the initial directors who elect the officers that direct MCC@KP. The present officers of the Center are:

- Chairman Emeritus: Clara L. McLean (sister of M.P. McLean and former Sea-Land officer)
- Chairman: Paul F. Richardson (President, P.F. Richardson Associates, Inc.)
- President: Charles R. Cushing (President, C.R. Cushing & Co.)
- Vice President: Ronald M. Katims (President, RMK Consulting Group)
- Treasurer: James Devine (President, New York Container Terminal, Inc.)
- Secretary: John D. McCown (Chairman & CEO, Trailer Bridge, Inc.)

Those wishing to contribute are asked to contact Dr. George Billy at: +1 516-773-5501, or billyg@usmma.edu

9. Further Information

For further information about anything in this newsletter, or if you would like to contribute to the next issue (July 2007), contact Patrick Hicks – secretary@containerownersassociation.org