



Message to COA Members from the COA Chairman

January 2011

Dear Member

The Container Owners Association in 2011

As it enters its 7th year, the Container Owners Association is on course for its busiest 12 months to-date, with a wide range of **Technical Projects** under way.

In addition to this technical work, 2011 will see the launch of our **Training Courses** covering two container interchange inspection criteria - the Common Interchange Criteria and UCIRC.

As in previous years, we will also be organising several **COA General Meetings** and **COA Regional Meetings**, and we will again be participating at relevant industry events.

As Chairman of the COA, I would like to take this opportunity to give you details of the principal activities that the COA will be working on in 2011.

A. Technical Projects

1. Joint COA and IICL Flooring Project

This is a joint initiative with the IICL to investigate possible options for a sustainable container floor/understructure of the future – a 4th Generation design of container.

2. Carrier Incident Notification System

In a new development, the COA will act as the host organisation for CINS, the Carrier Incident Notification System, a new information-sharing project initiated by a number of shipping lines. Further details about this project will be available in early March.

3. Participation in the IICL's Floor Audit Program

As in 2008, COA members are invited to participate in the IICL's Audit Program of container floor manufacturers, providing key information about floor suppliers.

4. Flexitank Code of Practice

The COA's Flexitank Code of Practice has already contributed to a reduction in flexitank leakages and in container damage. The Code will continue to be enhanced in 2011, with work being carried out to develop a single flexitank rail impact testing procedure, improved reporting of materials testing and a greater focus on incident management reporting.

5. Study on Alternative (environmentally-friendly) Container Coatings

At the beginning of January, the COA's New Materials Committee published its "Report on the Availability of Water-based Paints for the Container Industry", available to Members. The Report focuses on the issues relating to the search for water-based paints, the problems associated with the use of solvent-based paints and reviews the possible alternatives.

6. Study on Alternative Flooring Systems

Later this year, the COA will be publishing its 5th Report on Alternative Flooring Systems, which has proved to be an important industry reference work.

B. Training Courses

1. In March 2011, the COA will be organising a Training Course focusing on two globally recognised container interchange inspection criteria - the Common Interchange Criteria and the UCIRC – will take place in Antwerp.
2. This will be the first training course organised by the COA. It will be followed by further courses, taking place in container hubs around the world.

C. Conferences and Exhibitions

In addition to its Training Courses, during the coming year, the COA will be organising a number of Conferences and Meetings:

1. COA General Members Meetings

- Shanghai: Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 June 2011
- Hamburg: Monday 28 November 2011

2. COA Flexitank Meetings

- London Docklands: Thursday 19 May 2011
- Hamburg: Monday 28 November 2011

In addition, the COA's **Regional Branches** will be organising **Regional Meetings**, focusing on local and national issues.

The COA will also be organising its **COA Container Pavilion** at the Intermodal Europe 2011 Exhibition in Hamburg (29 November – 1 December 2011)

Please make a note of these dates, and I would like to warmly invite you to participate at these important and useful meetings.

Membership Fees

In order to maintain the continued efficient management of the Association, and at the same time to invest in the new projects which will benefit the membership, the COA Board of Directors have agreed to an increase in the COA's membership fee.

The increase will be divided over two years (2011 and 2012), with the 2011 fee being set at €1650.

As you may be aware, there has been no increase in the COA Membership Fee for the past four years. Compared to other similar international associations, the COA's fee is still relatively low.

I am sure that you recognise the value that Members receive from the COA, and I trust that your company will continue to be a member of this important and dynamic industry association.

Further Information and Contact Points

If you would like to receive further information on any of the items covered in this letter, please contact either myself or Patrick Hicks (COA Secretariat) secretary@containerownersassociation.org

Thank you for your continued participation in the COA. Please accept my best wishes for 2011 and I would like to wish you every success for the year ahead.

Bernard Isoard
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