



12 Carthusian Street London EC1M 6EZ Tel +44 20 7417 8844 Fax +44 20 7417 8877
post@marisec.org www.marisec.org www.shippingfacts.com

6 February 2009

TO: ALL ICS AND ISF MEMBERS
Copy: ICS Marine Committee
ICS Container Panel
ICS Shipping Policy Committee

ICS/ISF(09)16

PROMOTION OF SAFE TRANSPORT OF CONTAINERS BY SEA WITH SHIPPER AND PORT ORGANISATIONS

Action Required: *To note that the new ICS/WSC Guide 'Safe Transport of Containers by Sea' has now been published. National associations are requested to help promote this important new industry guide by forwarding complimentary copies (being send by post) to national shipper and port organisations.*

As previously advised, ICS, in conjunction with the World Shipping Council, has just published 'Safe Transport of Containers by Sea, Guidelines on Best Practices'. It will be recalled that this important new publication has been developed in response to recent incidents involving containerships which highlighted such problems as incorrect packing and misdeclaration of weights by other parties in the transport chain (as well as issues directly relevant to containership operators).

We now require the assistance of national associations to help promote those best practices which apply to other parties in the transport chain, particularly shippers and container terminals. **Members are therefore requested to forward complimentary copies of the Guide to their national shippers and port organisation(s).** Three copies of the Guide are being sent by post (three per national association only) for this purpose. If you require additional copies for promotional purposes please advise shantel.ryan@marisec.org

To help national associations explain the background to the Guide to shippers and ports, a press release concerning the Guide (issued last month) is **attached** for reference.

In due course, we intend to develop some additional promotional guidance specifically aimed at shippers, addressing matters such as safe container stuffing. In the meantime, the assistance of members in promoting awareness of the Guide with national shipper and ports' organisations will be greatly appreciated.

'Safe Transport of Containers by Sea' is now available for purchase from maritime book sellers, or direct from Marisec Publications, at a price of UK £80.

Simon Bennett
Secretary, ICS



PLEASE * PRESS RELEASE * PRESS RELEASE * PRESS RELEASE

9 December 2008

Contact: Mr. Simon Bennett, ICS

Contact: Mr. Don O'Hare, WSC

Tel: +44 20 7417 8844

Tel: +1 202 589 1233

Email: simon.bennett@marisec.org

Email: DOHare@worldshipping.org

For Immediate Release

INDUSTRY LAUNCHES BEST PRACTICES GUIDELINES FOR SAFE TRANSPORT OF CONTAINERS BY SEA

London -- The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the World Shipping Council (WSC) have published '*Safe Transport of Containers by Sea, Guidelines on Industry Best Practices*', with a view to minimising the dangers to containerships, their crews, and all personnel involved with containers throughout the transport chain.

The new Guide has been developed by an expert international industry working group in response to recent incidents involving containerships, most notably the collapse of a stack of containers on board the 'Annabella' and issues arising from the loss of the 'MSC Napoli', as identified by the UK

Marine Accident Investigation Branch and submitted for consideration by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) last year.

ICS Marine Director, Peter Hinchliffe, explained:

“The primary responsibility for the safe transport of containers by sea rests with containership operators. But there are many other parties in the transport chain concerned with the safe movement of containers. There are those employed by shipping lines involved with the booking and assignment of cargoes, and the subsequent arrangements for stowage planning; and there are the freight forwarders, ports and terminal operators and - particularly important - the shippers, from whom the cargo originates. All of these players have important responsibilities which are addressed by these new industry Guidelines.”

Peter Hinchliffe added:

“The safety record of the containership industry is impressive and has progressively improved during the last 20 years. But when incidents still occur, the root cause normally involves a failure to comply with existing international rules, or else results from a failure to follow established procedures which this new Guide seeks to reiterate in a readily digestible form.”

Particular emphasis is given by the new ICS/WSC Guidelines to the responsibilities of those involved with the correct packing, labelling and weighing of cargoes when they are stuffed into containers, and the accurate declaration of the goods by cargo interests. The Guidelines also address the safe handling and stowage of containers when they are received by a port facility and are loaded on board a ship, the latter requiring complex planning, calculations, and the use of sophisticated computer systems. The Guidelines also cover the maintenance and inspection of the containers themselves. All of these activities have a direct bearing on the safety of ships and the reduction of the risks to the lives of ships' crews and other personnel in the transport chain.

Lars Kjaer, Senior Vice President of the World Shipping Council, remarked:

“The new Guidelines provide a comprehensive and consolidated list of effective best practices in one place to provide a useful resource that should be of benefit to all concerned with the safe transport of containers.”

He added:

“It is particularly important for shippers to understand the extreme forces to which containerships are exposed at sea, and the extent to which risks are increased dramatically if a container is stuffed incorrectly. It is vital for shippers to adhere to weight restrictions and to

ensure that cargoes cannot shift within the container. It is also important for them to provide accurate and timely documentation and to properly label dangerous cargo.

These guidelines also recognise that container weight should be verified by marine terminal operators before vessel loading. By knowing accurate container weight, vessel and cargo safety is greatly enhanced.”

Notes:

'Safe Transport of Containers by Sea, Guidelines on Industry Best Practices' is published by Marisec Publications (see www.marisec.org/pubs) and is available from maritime booksellers.

ICS is the principal international trade association concerned with the operational safety of ships in all sectors and trades.

WSC represents the worlds's leading container shipping lines.
