



CONTAINER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

COA Members Newsletter: Issue 22 – January 2007

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1. COA Working Group Programme for 2007

One of the principle aims of the COA is to promote common standards for the industry. This work is carried out through a number of Working Groups. During the past two years, Working Groups have completed a number of reports and recommendations – these have been posted on the website and COA Members can access them with their own login/password details.

Current WG activity scheduled for 2007 includes the following:

Container Repair

Standard Repair Times: A COA recommendation for standard container repair times is presently being prepared. Following discussions between relevant organisations, a draft of this will be prepared in early-2007.

Standard Messaging Format: As part of the Container Repair WG, a standard system for sending container damage/repair data (to enable a unified ISO code for repair estimates) was proposed at the COA Singapore meeting. This WG is now being established, and companies willing to participate should contact the COA secretariat (secretary@containerownersassociation.org).

Container Coatings

Code of Practice: Following the Container Coatings seminar in Singapore, Corrosion Specialists Lithgow Associates, who chaired and managed the seminar, were invited to develop a comprehensive “Painting Code of Practice” for the COA. Funded by sponsorship from coatings companies, the CoP will be developed so that it:

- does not increase manufacturing costs
- achieves a 10 year coating performance cycle to first maintenance
- integrates the CoP various international standards, where appropriate

The project would involve

- (i) factory/production appraisal
- (ii) producing a 1st CoP draft
- (iii) Material Testing Programme – Part 1 (Development) and Part 2 (Implementation)

The Part 1 Development would be undertaken and finalised by beginning mid-2007, so that a presentation can be made at the next Members Meeting in June.

Part 2 of the testing programme (Implementation) would involve Independent Laboratory Testing - and would be funded by individual paint suppliers.

New Materials/Hot-Metal Spraying: Research into the use of new materials for container coatings, and for applications of hot-metal spraying for the container business, is now under way

Container Flooring

(a) Biocide flooring treatment

As part of the COA's co-operation with Ensis on the survey of biocide floor treatment, shipping lines and leasing companies have been continuing to provide samples to the COA, for subsequent inspection by Ensis. Initial results are expected in early-2007

(b) Alternative materials

The environmental issues relating to flooring are an important issue for the COA. The report on alternative flooring materials, prepared by WG leader Marc Weidemann and published mid-2006, has been well received. The COA Board is now considering the next step for this project. One option is to request feedback from companies who have results from using the latest generation of "environmentally friendly" flooring systems.

Containers/Flexitanks

A proposal has been to develop a COA recommended specification for containers carrying flexitanks.

For further information about the WGs and how to participate in them, please contact Patrick Hicks – secretary@containerownersassociation.org

2. COA Stand at Intermodal 2006, Hamburg

The COA's stand at Intermodal 2006 in Hamburg attracted a considerable numbers of visitors – including both current and potential members. It was an excellent meeting-point for members and a number of companies signed up to join the Association on the stand.

The COA produced an Intermodal 2006 Booklet – a PDF of this can be downloaded from the home page of the COA website – www.containerownersassociation.org

Once again, the COA appreciates the support of the Sponsors who funded the stand – for further information about the event, please click on: <http://www.containerownersassociation.org/25.html>.

The COA will exhibit at Intermodal 2007, taking place in Amsterdam from 4-6 December 2007.

3. Fitz's Atlas of Coating Defects – COA Members Discount

Fitz's Atlas of Coating Defects is a 200 page, pocket-sized ring binder including more than 190 illustrations to provide the most comprehensive visual guide to coating and surface defects.

Normally retailing at £125 per copy, the COA is able (through Lithgow Associates, a COA member) to offer a special discounted price to COA members of £100 per copy + postage. Over 2500 copies of the Atlas have been sold worldwide. Further information on the book can be found on: <http://www.mpigroup.co.uk/fitzs-atlas.asp>

Companies wishing to order a copy should contact the COA Secretariat.

4. Members Meetings in 2007

Dates for the 5th COA Members Meeting have now been confirmed – the meeting will take place in Paris on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th June 2007. Further information, together with a provisional conference programme, will be published in the February 2007 newsletter.

Preliminary planning is now also underway for the 6th Members Meeting – this is presently scheduled for Dubai on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th October 2007.

5. New Members

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

- **BASF** (www.basf.com) - Suppliers of chemicals, polymers and plastics technology
- **Bulmer Logistics** (www.bulmerslogistics.com) – UK-based container transport and bulk logistics specialists
- **Conforce International** (www.conforce1.com) – Supplier of the EKO-FLOR container flooring systems
- **Conglobal Industries** (www.cgini.com) – Container servicing and depot network with 30 locations in the US, Mexico and Costa Rica
- **Clean Value Plastics** (www.cvp-gmbh.de) – Development of industrial and consumer products from waste plastics
- **Elastogran** (www.elastogran.de) – suppliers of polyurethane systems and technology
- **Lithgow Logistics** (www.lithgow.co.uk) – specialists in corrosion and paint technology
- **Sparta Matrix** (www.spartamatrix.com) – suppliers of security monitoring and tracking technology systems
- **Turkon Container** (www.turkon.com.tr) – Istanbul-based, international container shipping line

6. Further Information

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