



WORLD SHIPPING COUNCIL
PARTNERS IN AMERICA'S TRADE

NEWS RELEASE

World Shipping Council and the U.S. Coast Guard Partner to Improve Port Security

Washington, D.C., USA – March 21, 2006: The World Shipping Council and its liner shipping member companies have entered into a new cooperative agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard to help ensure better port security.

"Terrorism is an international problem which requires international solutions," said Admiral Thomas Collins, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, "and it requires the cooperation of all our maritime stakeholders to secure the international maritime transportation system. I am very pleased by our agreement with the World Shipping Council since it provides us with much greater visibility of the maritime domain in the U.S., and with knowledge about how our trading partners are enforcing their port facilities compliance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code on a daily basis."

"The safety and security of the people, the ships, the cargo and the ports handling America's trade are high priorities for the government and for the liner shipping industry," said Chris Koch, President and CEO of the World Shipping Council. "Carriers' ability to offer safe and secure service is reliant upon port facilities around the world operating safely and securely, and the industry wants to support the Coast Guard's efforts to ensure that international security rules are respected."

The U.S. Coast Guard is a strong proponent of new international port and vessel security rules, and the adherence to those rules by ports in the U.S. and around the world.

The Coast Guard led the global efforts in 2002 at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to negotiate and adopt a comprehensive new ship and port facility security regime called the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. The ISPS Code has been in force since July 1, 2004 and has provided a meaningful, internationally consistent framework for enhancing port facility and vessel security worldwide. In addition to the Code's vessel security requirements, which the Council's members implement, the Code requires that port facilities around the world develop and implement a facility security plan

pursuant to the Code that is approved by the country in which the port facility is located.

Last year, the Commandant of the Coast Guard met with the World Shipping Council's Board of Directors to discuss a number of issues, including the importance of port facilities' compliance with the ISPS Code's requirements as an essential element of an effective security regime for the shipping industry. This partnership emerged from the discussion at that meeting. The United States can have more confidence in the security of liner shipping vessels and their cargoes, if the port facilities that stevedore the industry's vessels are operating in a secure manner.

The Coast Guard, internationally through its International Port Security Program (IPSP), visits other countries to see how they have implemented the ISPS Code. The Coast Guard, domestically through the Maritime Transportation Security Act, enforces U.S. commercial vessel and port facility security compliance. This reporting system is a way that the agency can obtain additional information from the industry's experiences at different ports in the U.S. and around the world, and can help the agency prioritize where its efforts would be most valuable.

"The liner shipping industry, its customers, ports with good security practices, and the Coast Guard all have a strong mutual interest in ensuring ISPS Code port facility compliance around the world", said Koch. "We hope this program can help with that objective and can help the Coast Guard assess best practices as well as potential problem areas", he added.

"I encourage other trade associations to adopt similar reporting schemes with the U.S. Coast Guard and other designated authorities throughout the world," said Admiral Collins, " since a more secure maritime transportation system will help ensure that the cargo supply chains are not disrupted."

The Council and its Member companies hope to assist in the uniform and effective implementation of sound, internationally agreed port security practices that are an important element in securing international trade from security risks. The new program is voluntary and allows carriers to submit their reports confidentially.

About the World Shipping Council

The World Shipping Council is an association representing the liner shipping companies that serve international trade. The Council's broad membership includes the largest container lines in the world, smaller carriers dedicated to specific trades, and carriers providing roll-on/roll-off and heavy-lift services. In addition to ocean transportation, these carriers provide a wide range of intermodal and logistics services to importers and exporters and operate marine terminals and warehouses around the world.

The Council's goal is to provide a coordinated voice for the liner shipping industry in its work with policymakers, lawmakers and other industry groups interested in international

transportation, with a particular focus on maritime and supply chain security, regulation affecting the industry, safe operations, environmental impacts, cargo liability and improving the port and land-side infrastructure needed to handle the expected growth in world trade. For more information about the Council, go to: www.worldshipping.org.

About the U.S. Coast Guard

For more information about the U.S. Coast Guard's activities related to port security, go to: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/pscweb/index.htm>.

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