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For Immediate Release

**SHIPPING INDUSTRY URGES ACTION TO ADDRESS
OVERWEIGHT CONTAINERS**

The World Shipping Council (WSC) and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) today urged the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to establish an international legal requirement that all loaded containers be weighed at the marine port facility before they are stowed aboard a vessel for export. In a joint statement just released (*see attached*), the WSC and ICS explain the problem with overweight containers, the efforts that have been undertaken to date to address the issue, and the reason that the industry is calling for a strong international solution to the problem from the IMO.

In 2008, the industry developed and released *Safe Transport of Containers by Sea, Guidelines on Industry Best Practices*, with a view to minimizing the dangers to containerships, their crews, and all personnel involved with containers throughout the transport chain. The Guidelines have been highly regarded and have been widely disseminated. However, the Guidelines have had little discernible effect on reducing the incidences of shippers' providing

incorrect container weights, or on ensuring that marine terminals verify the weight of loaded containers upon receipt/prior to loading.

In the absence of a legal requirement that marine terminal operators perform a weighing function for all loaded (“stuffed”) containers before vessel loading, it seems likely that a substantial number of containers will continue to go unweighed and that overweight containers will continue to pose a risk to safe ship operations, to ships’ crew, and to other personnel in the transport chain.

Therefore, the IMO should establish a universal international regulatory requirement that export cargo containers must be weighed by the marine terminal upon receipt and before vessel loading, and that the actual container weights be made available to the vessel operator and used for vessel stowage planning.

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Notes:

'Safe Transport of Containers by Sea, Guidelines on Industry Best Practices' is published by Marisec Publications at <http://www.marisec.org/catalogueindex.htm>, and is available from maritime booksellers.

WSC is the trade association representing the world’s leading container shipping lines. For more information about WSC, visit www.worldshipping.org.

ICS is an international trade association concerned with the operational safety of ships in all sectors and trades. For more information about ICS, visit <http://www.marisec.org>

Attachment: *Solving the Problem of Overweight Containers*
