

CIFFA Committee Meetings – March and April 2023

CIFFA's national committees meet several times a year to discuss relevant issues or developments that may affect member companies. Following is a look at what committee members discussed and decided at their most-recent meetings.

Airfreight Committee – Chair Bill Gottlieb

New EU Import Control System 2 (ICS2) advance cargo information system

- Some EU countries and airlines were **not ready in time** for the March 1 implementation. New information from FIATA indicates that the deployment window for air carriers has been extended to July 1.
- Foreign forwarders can **apply to be self-filers** in the countries to which they are shipping cargo.

Transport Canada Pre-load Air Cargo Targeting Program (PACT)

- **Draft regulations are due to be published** by the end of March. An implementation timeline will follow.
- Transport Canada has requested **CIFFA's input on the impact of ICS2** from the perspective of Canadian freight forwarders. To date, the only noteworthy impact of ICS2 on Canadian forwarders is the apparent need to apply in each country to which cargo is being sent.
- Forwarders need to **understand how to register and remain in compliance** with the regulations.

Vancouver International Airport Digital Cargo Community System

- Vancouver International Airport and Kale Info Solutions have entered the proof-of-concept phase of a **digital cargo community system project** that will last four to six months.
- After its review of Canadian supply chain challenges, the **federal government is pushing ports and airports toward implementing** a system of this kind to increase transparency, security and data sharing.

Customs Committee – Chair Paul Courtney

eHBL update

- CBSA has cautioned CIFFA several times that **penalties will soon be regularly charged** to freight forwarders that do not comply with eHBL filing requirements. So far, CBSA has issued penalties mainly to those companies that repeatedly fail to comply, even after CBSA outreach.

CARM update

- CBSA received 130 responses to its call for comments on the **draft regulatory package** for CARM.
- **Numerous issues**, some significant, remain to be addressed before CARM Release 2, scheduled for October 2023. Release 2 will expand the functionalities of the CARM Client Portal.
- CIFFA will post a **summary of what forwarders need to know** about CARM on its website.

Drayage Committee – Chair Chris Ford

- The **committee continues to grow**, with the addition of a member based in Quebec.
- The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) recently **postponed its planned Rolling Truck Age Program** for a third time. In an effort to reduce emissions at the Port of Vancouver, the VFPA introduced the program, initially mandating that trucks entering port grounds be no more than 10 years old. After significant industry pushback and consultation, the port authority revised the plan to allow trucks up to 12 years old to access the port. Most dray operators had prepared; fewer than 130 trucks that serve the port were older than 12 years as the program was scheduled to start. A small but vocal group of truckers against the program has gained political and media support for their cause and won the program postponement. The dray operators that have invested in new trucks are disappointed with the port authority's decision.
- **Continuing congestion** leaves truck drivers waiting sometimes for hours to pick up and drop off cargo containers at rail terminals, especially in Toronto. This leads to extra costs for the drayage companies that are eventually paid for by shippers.

Freight Brokers Committee – Chair Joel MacKay

- The **committee continues to grow**; it now includes eight freight brokers from across Canada.
- **Freight broker membership in the association is also growing**. Freight brokers now make up about 20 percent of members.
- CIFFA has issued a [best-practices guide on double brokering](#) to help members deal with this big and growing challenge. The committee is exploring other ways to provide value in this area.

Seafreight Committee – Chair Martin Schultz

- **Costs for reservations** to pick up and drop off containers are up, while free time has been reduced.
- **Congestion in Vancouver** is very high, even as container volume from Asia is significantly down. Ongoing congestion in Toronto has caused the railways to move fewer Toronto-bound containers out of Vancouver.
- The **Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA)** is looking to expand its handling of containers by developing a rail transload facility and a short sea service between Hamilton and Montreal and becoming a first port of arrival for direct shipments from Europe. HOPA is waiting for approvals from CBSA of its sufferance area applications.

Sustainability Committee – Chair Christina Fisker

- CIFFA has **engaged a consultant** to help with its numerous sustainability-focused initiatives. The consultant will:
 - Prepare a **strategic sustainability overview** to guide CIFFA's internal operations. It will include best practices and KPIs for the organization.
 - Complete CIFFA's questionnaire submission to **communicate progress relative to its membership in the United Nations Global Compact**.

- Develop an **introductory course on sustainability** for CIFFA members and review other educational offerings to determine where sustainability components would provide added value.
- Write an **equity, diversity and inclusion statement** for the association, as well as a policy document for use internally.
- Supplement and finalize a **sustainability blueprint document** created with significant input from the Sustainability Committee.

Technology Committee – Chair Marc Bibeau

- The Technology Committee continues to focus on **preparation of a guidance document** for members on workflow automation. Committee members are working together to research, write and edit the report for publication later this spring.

If you are interested in joining any of the national committees, please send your request to either admin@ciffa.com or the Regional Chair for your area, whose contact details can be found in the [National Board of Directors listing](#) on the CIFFA website.