



## CIFFA Committee Meetings – January 2025

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

- Several forwarders have contacted CIFFA about the **process to reject cargo that arrives without the transmission to CBSA of required pre-arrival data**. This situation leaves forwarders who decide to transmit after arrival subject to the hefty C378 penalties. The CBSA has promised to outline the full process for CIFFA, with recommendations as to how forwarders can remain compliant with regulations and avoid incurring penalties.
- Implementation of Transport Canada's **Pre-load Air Cargo Targeting (PACT) program** is scheduled for April 1. It is not expected to be further delayed. As the air carriers will be solely responsible for PACT filing and subject to penalties for late filing, they may be reluctant to give authority to freight forwarders to file directly to Transport Canada.
- CIFFA met recently with the CBSA to discuss the **possibility of single filing to CBSA and TC**. Most of the required data elements for the two filings (TC pre-load, CBSA pre-arrival) are the same. The two departments are in talks to enable single filing. Collaboration on this will likely be years in development if the departments determine that it is feasible. CIFFA will meet again with CBSA on this topic in six months.
- In the last meeting of IATA's Canadian Air Cargo Program Joint Council, airlines serving Canada and CIFFA agreed that they should try to **work together to advocate for improved stakeholder communication with Transport Canada** regarding its security measures. TC's refusal to communicate with forwarders led to confusion and shipment delays when new security measures were introduced in the fall of 2024.
- CIFFA's challenge to IATA's requirement for supporting letters to accommodate **CIFFA dangerous goods training certificates** has been accepted and will be presented for adoption. Any CIFFA member or certificate holder that experiences a problem submitting a CIFFA certificate through the IATA portal should continue to contact the CIFFA Secretariat for immediate assistance.

### Customs Committee – Chair Paul Courtney

- CBSA has published an **updated ECCRD related to enhanced deconsolidation notices**. There are now five codes that indicate where the cargo has arrived. It's not clear if D4 profiles will be automatically updated to ensure that forwarders receive the new notices; CIFFA will contact the CBSA to learn if the new notices will be automatically sent to anyone signed up to receive the old ones.

- The CBSA plans to do four major system updates a year, two for CARM and two for eManifest. CIFFA is trying to **reactivate the working group to advise CBSA on priorities** for these updates.
- The **CBSA appears to be increasing its focus on exports**. The government proposes to amend the Customs Act to clarify and strengthen the wording around CBSA examinations of export cargo. The Customs Committee has asked that CIFFA contact the CBSA to promote the association's engagement in this initiative.

### **Customs Regulatory Committee – Chair Kim Campbell**

- The committee asked that CIFFA write a **letter to the CBSA to support extending the grace period for late-payment penalties** through CARM, as legitimate issues remain.
- Rejects in CARM related to **CBSA system issues** are still common and are time-consuming to resolve. Most brokers reportedly have growing backlogs of entries to be corrected.
- CBSA's **Border Commercial Consultative Committees** – CIFFA participates on two of the three: Policy and Projects, Commercial and Operations – have started meeting again after a break. CIFFA's initial focus in meetings will be on Importer of Record issues.

### **Drayage Committee – Chair Chris Ford**

- **Insufficient availability in Canada of chassis** is an issue that the Drayage Committee has discussed several times. At its most recent meeting, the committee decided that CIFFA should share information with the CBSA on the reasons for the shortage and how the problem might be solved.
- Committee members will **meet separately with both CN and CPKC** to discuss issues and potential solutions at terminals across the country.
- Trucking companies continue to have problems with the **RV system at the Termont container terminal** in Montreal. Problems persist with booking reservations and terminal wait times.

### **Freight Brokers Committee – Co-Chairs Tim Drake, Gary Nicholson**

- After significant discussion of the issues related to the **Driver Inc. business model**, committee members have agreed that the association should take a vocal stand against Driver Inc. CIFFA will join other associations in the sector in the continuing effort to educate governments and push for change that will eliminate this business model.
- CIFFA is looking at ways to **collaborate with the Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA)** on meaningful projects.
- The committee is exploring a couple of interesting **options to provide extra value** to freight broker members of CIFFA.

### **Seafreight Committee – Chair Martin Schultz**

- The **target time for inspections** at one B.C. container examination facility is 8.75 days. In the period from August to October 2024, the inspections process there was taking an average of 12.81 days.

- **Container examination fees vary** across Canada by carrier and location. The CBSA does not dictate pricing to the inspection companies but does monitor and approve it. Members of the Seafreight Committee are concerned about the high prices being charged by some exam facilities and have directed CIFFA to discuss the charges with the CBSA.
- CBSA is planning to issue a proposal this year for **large-scale imaging equipment at the Tsawwassen container examination centre**.
- The Port of Vancouver is introducing a **new wharfage fee for empty containers**, effective May 1. Feedback can be sent to the port until March 15. This fee is to be paid by the carriers.
- Also at the Port of Vancouver, one terminal operator has been promoting **use by truckers of night gates** but they are proving to be unpopular for a few reasons: drivers can't do round trips because the empty return depots are not open; the requirement to book by lane means some lanes have long lines of trucks while other lanes are empty; and the terminal cancels the gates when it deems the number of reservations too low to remain open, requiring truckers that have appointments to reschedule. At the same time, the terminal operator has, in effect, reduced the number of appointments available during the day by extending the export receiving window over more days, but not increasing the number of overall appointments.
- The Digital Container Shipping Association (DCSA), which has 10 major carrier members, is working to achieve standardized reporting for the ocean carriers. Among its projects is development of a **standard electronic bill of lading**.

#### **Sustainability Committee – Chair Christina Fisker**

- The committee is **developing two resource papers for CIFFA members** (Ocean Carrier Sustainability Initiatives and Profitability of Sustainability for SMEs) that will be issued in the coming weeks.
- Despite the backtracking that some companies are doing on the ESG front in response to political change, the committee believes **CIFFA should remain committed to sharing information** with members on the need for – and ways to achieve – sustainability in the logistics industry.

#### **Technology Committee – Chair Marc Bibeau**

- The Technology Committee will present a series of **AI webinars** to inform CIFFA members of new developments and initiatives. The first, Navigating the Future: AI Tools in Logistics and Supply Chain, is scheduled for March 12.

---

If you are interested in joining any of the national committees, please send your request to either [admin@ciffa.com](mailto: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.