



Steel Shipping Container Institute

NEWS

May - June 2005

SSCI Board, TPC Schedule July 12 Meetings in Chicago

The Steel Shipping Container Institute's (SSCI) Board of Directors and the its Technical Projects Committee will conduct meetings on Tuesday, July 12, at the Hilton Chicago O'Hare Airport. The Board meeting will be its first under the auspices of the SSCI's newly-elected Chairman Len Berenfield of Berenfield Container, Inc. He was elected by the SSCI members in April to succeed John Herrick of Cleveland Steel Container Corporation, who completed three years as SSCI chair.

Other SSCI officers elected for 2005 were: Lester Trilla, Trilla Steel Drum Corp., as vice chairman; Earnest Beardsley, North Coast Container Corp. as secretary; and, John Dergentis, Greif, Inc., as treasurer.

The Board's meeting will take place one week before the next meeting of the Steel Drum Council (SDC), providing an opportunity for the SSCI leadership to consider and discuss the agenda for that meeting. (See related story below.) The Board will also consider numerous other matters as part of its deliberations.

Meanwhile, the TPC will continue its efforts to update the UN Testing Procedures manual, continue to evaluate the results of the recent vibration tests, and address other technical matters.

Initial Vibration Test Results Favorable for Steel Drums

Preliminary results from steel drum vibration tests conducted under the auspices of ASTM International's D10 packaging technical group in late winter and spring

produced favorable outcomes for the steel package designs tested. Three of the four testing labs that volunteered to conduct the testing reported that there were no steel drum failures.

Two package design types provided by different manufacturers were subjected to three different test methods: (1) fixed frequency vibration (based on ASTM D 999 Method A1, similar to 49 CFR 178.608); (2) ASTM random vibration (based on ASTM D 4728 and ASTM D 4169-04); and, (3) ISO random vibration (based on ISO 13355-2003). The three participating labs that completed the testing are DDL, Inc., Ten-E Packaging Services, Inc., and Gaynes Lab. Due to an equipment problem, the packaging lab at Michigan State University has not completed its testing.

The two 55-gallon steel drum designs tested were 0.8/0.8/0.8 and 1/0/0.9/1.0.

The preliminary results of the testing were reported at the SSCI's Technical Projects Committee meeting in Jacksonville in April. A final report will be circulated after MSU has completed its testing.

SSCI, RIPA Officials Set Second Steel Drum Council Meeting

Representatives of the Steel Shipping Container Institute (SSCI) and the Reusable Industrial Packaging Association (RIPA) will gather in Little Rock, AR on July 19 to advance discussions on issues of common concern under the guise of the Steel Drum Council (SDC). The meeting will be hosted by RIPA Chairman Barry Wingard of Drumco of Arkansas, Inc.

The July meeting follows a successful March session in Washington, DC hosted by SSCI that brought together

leaders of both organizations for the first time since the mid-1990s. Mr. Wingard led the RIPA delegation while John Herrick of Cleveland Steel Containers Corp. headed the SSCI group. Len Berenfield of Berenfield Containers, Inc. succeeded Mr. Herick as SSCI chair in April and, henceforth, will head the SSCI delegation. He was an SSCI representative at the earlier meeting.

Numerous issues of possible mutual interest were identified at the March meeting and it is expected that the July meeting in Arkansas will provide an opportunity for SDC members to hone in on one or two for collaborative consideration.

In addition to Mr. Berenfield, SSCI representatives at the meeting will be Les Trilla of Trilla Steel Drum and Ernie Beardsley of North Coast Container Corporation. RIPA's SDC representatives in addition to Mr. Wingard include William Shocklee of Drumtech, Inc. and Richard Rubin of Maxi Container, Inc. Additionally, the staff directors and counsels for each group will attend the meeting.

PHMSA Clarifies Earlier Notice Affecting Salvage Drums

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT, has issued a final rule in HM-215G, adopting further revisions to its regulations due to recent changes to the IMDG Code, the ICOA Technical Instructions, and the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. PHMSA explained that these latest changes in a final rule it issued last December 20 to harmonize its regulations, where appropriate, with international standards "are necessary to facilitate the transport of hazardous materials in international commerce." A copy of the agency's decision was published in the June 14 *Federal Register*.

One area of clarification in the notice relates to 49 CFR 173.3 involving to the use of salvage drums. In its notice, the agency explained, "In the December 20, 2004 final rule, we revised the requirements for use of salvage drums to include the term 'non-conforming.' The term 'non-conforming' was added to the UN Model Regulations by the UN Committee of Experts in 2000. Our intent in the final rule was to allow the use of salvage drums for non-conforming packages, but to limit such use to instances where the packages were discovered to be non-conforming after having been placed in transportation. However, we inadvertently applied the limitation to damaged, defective, and leaking packages as well as to non-conforming packages."

Consequently, PHMSA said that it is revising Part 173.3 to clarify that damaged, defective, or leaking packages may be transported in salvage drums under the specified conditions irrespective of whether such packages are discovered before or after having been placed in transportation. This would allow, for example, a package found leaking at a fixed storage facility to be transported in a salvage drum for purposes of recovery or disposal.

2005 SSCI Membership Directory

A new edition of the SSCI Membership Directory is at the printers and will be circulated to all members soon. The directory is the first printed update in several years and should help facilitate communication between members. The new directory contains a complete listing of all manufacturing, associate, and international/other member companies and their official representatives as well as other contacts. It also contains an up-to-date list of Life Members.

Look for your copy in the mail soon.