



Shipping Container Institute

NEWS

June – July 2006

SSCI NEWS

SSCI Board, TPC Set to Meet in Chicago on July 20

The Steel Shipping Container Institute's Board of Directors and its Technical Projects Committee will conduct separate meetings later this month in Chicago. Both meetings will take place on July 20 at the Hilton Chicago O'Hare.

At its morning meeting, staff will report to the Board on the 2005 year-end financial review. An update of the SSCI's finances through June 30 also will be provided. Additionally, the Board will focus on program updates related to the Steel Packaging Alliance for Public Safety (SPAPS) and ongoing TPC activities. It also will be briefed on the July meeting of the UN Committee of Experts in Geneva.

For its part, Technical Projects Committee will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on July 20. It will focus on several work initiatives affecting the steel drum and pail industry. The TPC will review a final draft of the SSCI's revised *UN Test Manual*. This is the first revision of the manual since 2001; therefore, it contains extensive revisions and reformatting.

The Committee also will focus on a draft of a new customer brochure that focuses on steel drum accessory compatibility. This topic was one of several identified at the TPC's April meeting in Florida as a possible work item. An initial working draft of the brochure will be circulated to members prior to the July 20 meeting.

SSCI members planning to participate in the TPC meeting who will require a sleeping room at the Hilton O'Hare, should contact SSCI staff at (202)408-1900 today. Staff will be providing the hotel with a

housing list for this event rather than members making their reservations directly with the Hilton.

SSCI Publishes Brochures on UN Markings, Lining Issues

The SSCI recently published in electronic form two brochures designed to assist pail and drum buyers in the many decisions that affect packaging specifications. The brochures were developed by the Institute's Technical Projects Committee (TPC) as the first in a series of informational pamphlets designed to help customers focus on elements that should be considered when purchasing drums and pails to transport their products.

One brochure entitled, *Lining Selection Guidelines for Interior Lined Steel Drums and Pails*, provides an overview of issues that drum and pail purchasers need to consider when specifying their packaging. These issues include lining selection for new products, lining selection for reformulated products, and the so-called "shelf life" of components for drums and pails that are not readily used for transport.

The second brochure, *Certifiable UN Marks for Steel Drums and Pails* aims to educate buyers about choosing containers that are appropriate for their products and marked accordingly. It addresses the misconception that the higher the mark, the better the drum or pail.

Electronic copies of both brochures were disseminated to SSCI members in two forms – one for posting on member Web Sites and a second that could be used by a printer in producing printed brochures. The SSCI office also retains more sophisticated Quark files

of the documents that are available to members utilizing more state-of-the-art production resources.

IPANA NEWS

IPANA Sets Dates for 2006 Fall Conference, 2007 Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors, in a recent conference call, approved the dates and locations for the meetings this fall and next spring of IPANA and its affiliated organizations.

The 2006 Fall Conference will take place on October 8-10 at The Westin Grand Hotel in Washington, D.C. These dates fall over the Columbus Day week-end, affording participants the opportunity to come early to the Nation's Capitol during what many believe is the best season for visiting the monuments and museums, taking a ride in the Virginia or Maryland countryside, or just brunching al fresco at one of the District's many cafes or taverns.

The 2007 Annual Meeting of IPANA and its affiliates will be held Wednesday through Friday, May 2-4 at the Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort, Phoenix, Arizona. This architectural wonder terraces the slopes of the Phoenix North Mountain Preserve, with strong Spanish-Mediterranean influences. It consists of 585 suites and offers championship golf on site as well as swimming pools, a spa, tennis courts, and workout facilities.

The May 2007 meeting departs from IPANA's usual Sunday-Tuesday arrival-departure pattern. The Board concluded to hold the meeting in Phoenix during the same week that the Chemical Packaging Committee (CPC) will be meeting at The Wigwam Resort, in the west Phoenix suburb of Litchfield Park. The CPC meeting begins on April 30 and concludes the morning of May 2. Currently, IPANA's plans call for its annual golf outing to be held on the afternoon of May 2, with a Welcome Reception for all those attending the meeting that night. The business meetings will commence on May 3 and continue through May 4.

The Board concluded that holding the annual meeting of IPANA and its affiliates over the same week and in the same general area in which the CPC is meeting will afford many members to leverage travel expenses and meeting time to attend portions or all of both conferences.

Look for details on the Fall Conference program, hotel reservations, and meeting registration before the end of July. It will be sent to all members electronically.

While work on the arrangements for the May 2007 meeting is underway, don't look for any specifics until after the first of the year.

REGULATORY NEWS

New PHMSA Administrator Sworn In; DOT Secretary Submits Resignation

Changes are afoot within the U.S. Department of Transportation. On May 31, Vice Admiral Thomas J. Barrett, USCG (Ret.) was sworn in by DOT Secretary Norman Y. Mineta as the first administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Adm. Barrett had been nominated by the President in January and was confirmed by the full U.S. Senate on May 26.

Most recently, Adm. Barrett was the vice president and chief operating officer of the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies. Prior to that, he served 35 years in the U.S. Coast Guard and attained the position of vice commandant. He earned a B.S. in biology from LeMoyne College and a *Juris Doctor* with honors from George Washington University.

Two associate administrators of PHMSA report to Adm. Barrett: Robert A. McGuire, Associate Administrator, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, and Stacey Gerard, his counterpart in the Office of Pipeline Safety.

More recently, DOT Secretary Mineta submitted a letter of resignation to President Bush, effective July 7. Mineta is the only Democrat in the Bush cabinet and was one of three original cabinet appointments still at their posts. The two remaining original cabinet members are Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and Labor Secretary Chao.

Mineta has the distinction of being the first Asian-American to serve in the cabinet and also is the first official to shift directly from a cabinet post in a Democratic administration to one in a Republican administration.

Prior to his service in the Executive branch of government, Mineta was a longstanding member of the

House of Representatives, where he focused on transportation issues and served at one time as the chairman of the Public Works and Transportation Committee. He quit the Congress after the Republicans gained control of the House in 1994.

UN Committee to Take Up IBC Vibration Testing at 29th Session

Among the items on the agenda of the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (the COE) for its Geneva meeting beginning July 3 are several proposals dealing with intermediate bulk containers (IBCs). Key among them is a joint proposal by the experts from the U.S. and France which proposes a vibration test that would apply as a design type test for all IBC types, other than flexible, beginning January 1, 2011.

Moreover, UN COE observers note that once the body has decided on a regulation affecting one type of industrial packaging, in the future, it is likely that the Committee will seek to apply the requirement to all industrial packaging design types. Consequently, it is important for steel drum and pail manufacturers to monitor UN efforts affecting IBCs.

The fact that the issue of vibration testing is on the COE agenda at all is somewhat of a surprise given that at the conclusion of the group's 28th session last December, it had been concluded that the issues would not be carried forward as a formal agenda item.

However, for the current session, no fewer than five papers relating to IBCs have been docketed for consideration. The joint U.S./France paper reflects the efforts of the U.S. which for years has been working to introduce into the UN Model Regulations a vibration test or capability standard consistent with the U.S. Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR). The proposed test is consistent with 49 CFR Section 178.819, while clarifying the method and acceptance criteria.

The proposal: (1) places the test first in the order of sequence; (2) applies to liquids and solids; (3) requires a repetitive shock test as prescribed in 49 CFR 178.819 for one hour; (4) requires inserting a shim at any point between the IBC and the test platform during the test procedure.

While the U.S. and France support this approach, there is no certainty that the COE will adopt a vibration

test. However, to the extent that a vibration test is adopted for inclusion in the Model Regulations, the approach recommended by the U.S. and France clearly is the more acceptable methodology of the various options that have been discussed over the course of the last year or so at the Geneva meetings.

OSHA Updates Resource Guide

OSHA's informational guide *All About OSHA* has been updated and refurbished, and is now available for download from the agency's Web site. The guide was designed in a brochure format, rather than the standard magazine-style design, and still provides a broad overview of OSHA and its operation. OSHA's mission, who is covered by OSHA, state programs, enforcement activities, standards setting, reporting requirements, cooperative programs, and whistleblower procedures, are just some of the topics covered within the brochure's pages. The revised guide can be printed directly from the agency's Web site; printed copies also are available through OSHA's publications office (<http://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/pubindex.list>)

OTHER NEWS

Additives at Issue During USLD Changeover

Experts are warning fleet managers and independent truckers that the impending switch to ultra-low-sulfur diesel (USLD) this fall and new engines in 2007 will require close monitoring of how the fuel behaves in the tank, as well as any fuel additives used today.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set June 1 as the deadline for 80 percent of the on-road diesel fuel refined or imported to be USLD. Retail outlets and pipeline distributors have until October 15 to fully comply with the USLD rules. The new fuel standard reduces the amount of sulfur in on-road diesel by 97 percent and will support smokeless engine technologies hitting the market in 2007.

"You need to be careful because the new diesel particulate filters (DPFs) coming out with new engines next year are very sensitive to what passes through them – and what goes in your fuel tank can affect them," John Taracha, product manager for diesel fuel additives for Lubrizol Corp. recently told the industry publication *Fleet Owner*.

Diesel fuel itself is also changing in terms of its chemical makeup and fuel is going to experience higher levels of stress from the new engine environment than in the past," he added. "Engines are going to be operating at much higher temperatures with increased fuel injection pressures."

Those are far more stressful operating conditions and the significant drop in sulfur content is only part of why USLD will behave differently. "It's not just about pulling out sulfur from the fuel because we're also pulling out molecules attached to the sulfur, as well," Taracha continued. "That means USLD is going to get a little waxier, which means it's going to behave differently at lower temperatures."

Refineries used to compensate for diesel's tendency to "gel" at low temperatures by diluting it with between 25 percent and 50 percent kerosene, especially in winter. Since kerosene is heavy in sulfur content, new low-sulfur kerosene blends are needed. The same is true for additives fleets buy to improve diesel's cold flow performance while beefing up lubricity and anti-wear protection.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 16 – 18

International Conference on Industrial Packaging
San Francisco, CA

September 4

Labor Day

September 13 – 15

National Association of Chemical Distributors
OPSEM 2006
Indianapolis, IN

September 17 – 19

Petroleum Packaging Council
2006 Fall Meeting
Colorado Springs, CO

September 23

Rosh Hashanah

September 25 – 27

Chemical Packaging Committee
Full - & Sub-Committee Meetings
Alexandria, VA

October 2*

Yom Kippur

October 8 – 10

Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America
2006 Fall Conference
Washington, D.C.

November 7

Election Day

November 15 – 17

Dangerous Goods Advisory Council
28th Annual Meeting
Arlington, VA

Observances denoted with the (*) begin at sundown the previous day.