

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF
DANGEROUS GOODS AND ON THE GLOBALLY
HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION
AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS**

Sub-Committee of Experts on the

Transport of Dangerous Goods

(Twenty-third session, 30 juin-4 July 2003

Agenda item 13)

OTHER BUSINESS

**Application for consultative status by the International Vessel Operators Hazardous
Materials Association, Inc. (VOHMA)**

The secretariat reproduces hereafter a letter received from the International Vessel Operators Hazardous Materials Association, Inc. (VOHMA) requesting consultative status.

Mr. Olivier Kervella
United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe
Transport Division and Special Cargoes Section
Palais de Nations
1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland

December 26, 2002

Dear Mr. Kervella:

Please permit me to first introduce myself and the organization that I represent. I am the Administrator for the International Vessel Operators Hazardous Materials Association, Inc. (VOHMA). Our members represent thirty-seven (37) of the major international ocean common container carriers of the world, operating under the registry of several nations. The many flags under which we operate provide us with the ability to discuss and develop consensus positions based on the benefit of cultural diversity and state regulatory insight. Our administrative offices are located in the United States, however the scope of our membership is truly international, with their corporate headquarters located throughout the world. Many of the names appearing at the bottom of this letter are readily recognizable as leaders in the global maritime transportation industry. VOHMA currently enjoys consultative status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

We would like to present application for observer status to the UN Committee of Experts on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods (UN COETDG). The officers and administrators of VOHMA believe that we have the ability and resources to make a substantial contribution to the work of the UN COETDG through sharing our collective expertise and experience in the field of maritime transportation. We feel that our active participation in the work of the Committee in observer status can provide us with the opportunity to foster our goals and the Committee's goals of enhancing safety while sharing the business acumen of the carrier industry in harmony with the spirit, functions, and principles of the UN.

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“Committed to the promotion of the safe handling and transportation of hazardous materials.”

APL Limited ♦ Atlantic Container Line ♦ Australia New Zealand Direct Line ♦ Bermuda Container Line ♦ Canada Maritime Agencies Ltd. ♦ CMA-CGM America Inc. ♦ Columbus Line USA Inc. ♦ Compania Latino Americana de Navegacion SA ♦ Contship Container Lines ♦ Crowley Maritime Corporation ♦ CSX Lines, LLC ♦ Evergreen America Corporation ♦ Hanjin Shipping Company Ltd. ♦ Hapag-Lloyd Container Linie GmbH ♦ Hyde Shipping ♦ Hyundai Merchant Marine (America) Inc. ♦ Independent Container Line, Ltd. ♦ Italia Line ♦ “K” Line America, Inc. ♦ Lykes Lines Limited ♦ Maersk-Sealand ♦ Marine Transport Lines ♦ Maruba S.C.A. ♦ Mediterranean Shipping Co. ♦ MOL (America) Inc. ♦ The National Shipping Co. of Saudi Arabia ♦ NYK Line (North America) Inc. ♦ OOCL (USA) Inc. ♦ P & O Nedlloyd ♦ SAFMARINE Inc. ♦ Senator Lines (America) Inc. ♦ TMM Lines Ltd. ♦ Tropical Shipping ♦ Wallenius - Wilhelmsen Americas ♦ Yang Ming Line ♦ Zim-American Israeli Shipping Co. Inc.

VOHMA is not affiliated with any of the other organizations currently enjoying observer status with the UN COETDG nor are our interests and technical expertise represented by any of these organizations. VOHMA is quite unique, in that our membership is limited to ocean common carriers engaged in the transportation of dangerous goods. VOHMA representatives from our member lines are specialists and upper level operational managers in the field of maritime safety and can offer the benefits of years of hands-on experience both at sea and in land based operations, with a particular focus on the safe transportation of dangerous goods.

Please advise our office if we may provide you with additional documentation or clarification that will assist us in receiving a positive consideration for observer status in the coming biennium. We look forward to participating with the distinguished experts represented on this committee toward our mutual goals of transportation safety.

Yours sincerely,

John V. Currie
VOHMA Administrator