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MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT INSTITUTE (MTI)
Working Group Sea Transport

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E only

To : **NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**
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From : Kersten Ohl, Manager of the Institute

Subject : **Advance Electronic Filing of Marine Cargo Information
to Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)**

Subsequent to the security provisions having been applied as of December 2002 by US CBP (US Customs and Border protection), the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), formerly Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, will implement similar regulations for electronic transmission of marine cargo data. The date of implementation is 19 April 2004.

Under the "Advanced Commercial Information (ACI)" in Canada, ocean carriers will be required to report cargo data of containerised shipments electronically at least 24 hours before goods are loaded on board a vessel at a foreign port. Covered by the regulation are also FROB shipments (Freight Remaining On Board). Details of FROB shipments to a US as port final destination are to be reported to CBSA and US CBP. Exempted from the ACI of CBSA are shipments from US ports.

Information for bulk shipments must be transmitted at least 24 hours prior to arrival at the Canadian port.

All ACI data for shipments to Canada can be transmitted by the actual carrier, i.e. vessel carrier. Certain basic data must be transmitted by the vessel carrier. Freight forwarders, including those acting as contractual marine carriers (NVOCs), may however electronically transmit additional data, which they do not want to disclose to the actual carrier, directly to CBSA themselves or through a service provider. A list of basic data that are to be transmitted by the vessel carrier and a list of additional data that may be transmitted by freight forwarders are enclosed.

Essential condition for a foreign freight forwarder's ability to transmit additional data to CBSA himself or to have data transmitted by a third party service provider is an 8000 series carrier code, which the freight forwarder must apply for and obtain. Fundamental requirement is of course that the freight forwarder must be capable of transmitting data electronically to CBSA either directly himself or through a service provider. The form for the carrier code application is enclosed. Contrary to US manifest filing provisions, freight forwarders must not post a bond if they are only involved in supplying electronic data to CBSA.

Details on electronic transmission requirements are outlined in the Participants Requirements Document, which can be accessed under

http://www.hkstla.org/downloads/Canada24HourRule/ACI-EDI-PRDv0.5-B_FINAL.doc

or be obtained from

Manager, Electronic Commerce Unit
Canada Border Services Agency
15th Floor
191 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L5

Tel: +1-888-957-7224

A list of third party service providers is available from the Electronic Commerce Unit under telephone No. 1-613-954-6353. Service will be provided in English and French.

Enclosed are also Customs Notice N-542 which gives an overview over the ACI requirements, a list of frequently asked questions which may further contribute to becoming familiar with the issue, as well as a framework for testing EDI communication with CBSA.

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