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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FEDERAL MARITIME COMM

Australia/ and New Zealand-United States- Discussion Agreement

FMC Agreement No. 203-011275-022

(Third Edition)

A Discussion Agreement

Original Effective Date: April 28, 1990

Expiration Date: None

This Agreement is republished herein.

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AUSTRALIA/UNITED STATES DISCUSSION AGREEMENT

1. NAME OF THE AGREEMENT

The full name of this Agreement is the ~~Australia/ and New Zealand-~~United States Discussion Agreement.

2. PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

The purpose of this Agreement is to promote service, stability and efficiency in the outwards liner cargo shipping ~~trade/trades~~ from Australia and New Zealand to the United States (~~the trade~~) as defined in Article 4 by:

- (a) ~~authorizing~~ (a) authorising the parties to discuss and exchange information with regard to matters of mutual interest and concern in the ~~trade/trades~~, with a view, inter alia, to reaching a non-binding consensus upon rates, rules, terms and conditions of common carrier service in the ~~trade/trades~~;
- (b) ~~authorizing~~ (b) authorising the parties to give effect to any consensus arrived at under paragraph (a); and
- (c) ~~authorizing~~ (c) authorising the parties to agree upon a common position with respect to the matters referred to in paragraph (a) to present to various statutory corporations, boards and shipper bodies in connection with the negotiation of minimum levels of service as set out in Appendix B ~~hereto~~, the negotiation and award of carrier designations to carry cargoes in the ~~trade/trades~~, and related matters.

3. PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

The names and addresses of the parties to this Agreement are set out in Appendix A.

4. GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement covers the trades –

- (a) ~~This Agreement covers the trade~~ from ports and points in Australia, on the one hand, to ports and points in the United States (including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), on the other hand; the “Australian trade”,

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- (b) from ports and points in New Zealand, on the one hand, to ports and points in the United States (including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), on the other hand; the "New Zealand trade", and
- (c) The Australian trade and the New Zealand trade are hereinafter referred to collectively as "the trades".

5. OVERVIEW OF AGREEMENT AUTHORITY

- 5.1 To the extent permitted by the applicable laws, the parties or any two or more of them are authorised, but not required, to meet, to exchange information and data, to consider and discuss and to reach non-binding consensus upon the following matters:
- (a) the rates, charges (including any demurrage, detention and other charges relating to the receiving, handling, storage and delivery of cargo), classifications, terms and conditions applicable to the transportation of cargo in the trades, service contract rates, charges, terms and conditions, and any rules and regulations applicable to those rates, charges, classifications, terms and conditions;
 - (b) cargo movements, seasonability and other fluctuations of traffic flows and related data bearing on the level and frequency of liner services, including, without limitation, services offered by non-parties, required by shippers in Australia, New Zealand and/or the United States;
 - (c) the formulation of any lawful agreement permitting the rationalization of service, equipment or capacity in all or any part of the trades, by joint service, space charter, or otherwise; provided that no such agreement may become effective until it is first reduced to writing and all governmental conditions required to be fulfilled prior to its effectiveness shall have been fulfilled;
 - (d) practices in connection with the receipt, carriage, handling and delivery of cargo, including cargo classifications and cargo space accommodations, the operation by the parties and non-parties of vessels, containers, equipment and facilities in the trades, and the centralisation of cargo at outports and transshipment of same by feeder vessel, rail or motor carrier. In respect to the Australian trade, the parties will abide by the provisions of the Australian Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth) in reaching any such consensus;
 - (e) Liability, bill of lading conditions, positioning of equipment, interchange with connecting carriers, terminal and shoreside loading operations, wharfage, free time and demurrage, receipt, handling, storage and delivery of cargo (to the extent permitted under Part X of the Australia Trade Practices Act), consolidation,

- (b) from ports and points in New Zealand, on the one hand, to ports and points in the United States (including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), on the other hand; the "New Zealand trade", and
- (c) The Australian trade and the New Zealand trade are hereinafter referred to collectively as "the trades".

5. OVERVIEW OF AGREEMENT AUTHORITY

- 5.1 TheTo the extent permitted by the applicable laws, the parties are authorized or any two or more of them are authorised, but not required, to meet, to exchange information and data, to consider and discuss and to reach non-binding consensus upon the following matters:
- (a) The~~the~~ rates, charges (including any demurrage, detention and other charges relating to the receiving, handling, storage and delivery of cargo), classifications, terms and conditions applicable to the transportation of cargo in the ~~trade~~trades, service contract rates, charges, terms and conditions, practices related to any aspect of ocean transportation and common carrier service provided by any party in the trades, and any rules and regulations applicable to those rates, charges, classifications, terms and conditions;
 - (b) Cargo~~cargo~~ movements, seasonability and other fluctuations of traffic flows and related data bearing on the level and frequency of liner services, including, without limitation, ~~services~~services offered by non-parties, required by shippers both in Australia, New Zealand and/or the United States;
 - (c) Practice~~the~~ formulation of any lawful agreement permitting the rationalization of service, equipment or capacity in all or any part of the trades, by joint service, space charter, or otherwise; provided that no such agreement may become effective until it is first reduced to writing and all governmental conditions required to be fulfilled prior to its effectiveness shall have been fulfilled;
 - (d) practices in connection with the receipt, carriage, handling, and delivery of cargo, including cargo classifications and cargo space accommodations, the operation by the parties and non-parties of vessels, containers, equipment and facilities in the ~~trade~~trades, and the centralisation of cargo at ~~Australian~~ outports and ~~transshipment~~transshipment of same by feeder vessel, rail or motor carrier. In respect to the Australian trade, and the parties will abide by the provisions of the Australian Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth) in reaching any such consensus;
 - (d) Politicale) Liability, bill of lading conditions, positioning of equipment, interchange with connecting carriers, terminal and shoreside loading operations, wharfage, free time and demurrage, receipt, handling, storage and delivery of

container yards, depots and freight stations, and the transportation, use and storage of containers, chassis and all other intermodal equipment;

- (f) Applicable to the New Zealand trade only: Agreements with individual forwarders or brokers, or among the parties to this Agreement, on amounts of brokerage and freight forwarder compensation and conditions for the payment thereof;
- (g) political and economic policies affecting the shipment of cargo in the trades; port development, and commercial and governmental practices affecting the carriage of cargo in the trades;
- (h) cost of service relating to cargoes moving in the trades, transportation rates, including oncarriage rates, and surcharges, conditions of carriage, rules, regulations and practices of parties and non-parties concerning such cargoes; and
- (i) any other matter which is necessary to give effect to this Agreement, and which is in conformity with the applicable laws.

5.2 The parties are further authorised;

- (a) to exercise the authority under Article 5.1 in connection with the presentation (jointly or separately) of a common position to any statutory corporation, board or shipper group concerning such matters as the negotiation, award, implementation and designation of carriers to carry cargoes in all or any part the trades; and
- (b) to meet with designated shipper bodies and in respect to the Australian trade to negotiate upon minimum levels of shipping services as set out in Appendix B, including frequency of sailings, cargo carrying capacity and ports of call.

5.3 The parties may adhere and give effect to any consensus reached under the authority of Article 5.1, but are not required by this Agreement or by anything done pursuant to this Agreement, to give effect to any such consensus; and no common tariff shall be published under this Agreement.

5.4 Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, the authority set forth in this Agreement may be exercised with respect to both of the trades or with respect to only the Australia trade or the New Zealand trade, as the parties determine to be desirable or appropriate.

5.5 The parties, or any of them, may agree upon any routine administrative matter relating to the operation or implementation of this Agreement.

cargo (to the extent permitted under Part X of the Australia Trade Practices Act), consolidation, container yards, depots and freight stations, and the transportation, use and storage of containers, chassis and all other intermodal equipment;

- (f) Agreements with forwarders or brokers, or among themselves, on amounts of brokerage and freight forwarder compensation and conditions for the payment thereof;
- (g) political and economic policies affecting the shipment of cargo in the ~~trade~~trades; port development, and commercial and governmental practices affecting the carriage of cargo in the ~~trade~~; andtrades;
- (h) cost of service relating to cargoes moving in the trades, transportation rates, including oncarriage rates, and surcharges, conditions or carriage, rules, regulations and practices of parties and non-parties concerning such cargoes; and
- (e) any other matter which is necessary to give effect to this Agreement, and which is in conformity with the applicable laws.

~~5.2~~ 5.2 The parties are further ~~authorized~~:authorised;

- (a) to exercise the authority under Article 5.1 in connection with the presentation (jointly or separately) of a common position to any ~~Australian~~ statutory corporation, board or shipper group concerning such matters as the negotiation, award, implementation and designation of carriers to carry cargoes in all or any part the ~~trade~~trades; and
- (b) ~~(b)~~ —to meet with designated shipper bodies and in respect to the Australian trade to negotiate upon minimum levels of shipping services as set out in Appendix B, including frequency of sailings, cargo carrying capacity and ports of call.

~~5.3~~ 5.3 The parties may adhere and give effect to any consensus reached under the authority of Article 5.1, but are not required by this Agreement, or by anything done pursuant to this Agreement, to give effect to any such consensus; and no common tariff shall be published under this Agreement.

5.4 Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, the authority set forth in this Agreement may be exercised with respect to both of the trades or with respect to only the Australia trade or the New Zealand trade, as the parties determine to be desirable or appropriate.

5.5 The parties, or any of them, may agree upon any routine administrative matter relating to the operation or implementation of this Agreement.

6.6. OFFICIALS OF AGREEMENT AND DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

6.1 The parties may select ~~an~~ an Agreement Chairman who shall be an official of one of the parties, who (or whose nominated representative) shall have the following functions:

~~(a)~~ (a) to preside at meetings of the membership;

(b) to file minutes and other documents as may be required by the rules of the Federal Maritime Commission;

(c) in respect to the Australian Trade, to apply on behalf of the parties under the Australian Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth) for the ~~provisions~~ provisional and final registration of the Agreement and of any amendment or associated agreement; ~~(d)~~ and to give notice of any change in negotiable shipping ~~arrangement~~ arrangements or of any other affecting event, as may be required under the Australian Trade Practices Act of 1974 (Cth).

6.2 The parties may form or subsequently disband sub-Committees or working groups and appoint a Chairman of such sub-Committees or working groups as may be considered necessary from time to time.

~~6.2~~ 6.3 The parties shall jointly nominate a representative ~~authorized~~ authorised to sign on behalf of each party and file this Agreement and any amendments thereto with the Federal Maritime Commission and the National Transportation Agency as required by the applicable laws, which representative may delegate this authority to counsel.

~~6.36.4~~ The parties may also employ administrative personnel, attorneys and other persons to perform services in connection with this Agreement, and otherwise provide for administrative and housekeeping matters.

7.7. MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL, READMISSION-RE-ADMISSION AND EXPULSION

- 7.1 Any vessel operating common carrier by water that regularly operates liner vessels in transportation services in one or both of the tradetrades may become a party to this Agreement by signing the Agreement or a counterpart copy thereof, and upon filing, as required by any applicable law, a modification hereof adding such carrier as a new party to this Agreement.
- 7.2 A party may only be expelled from this Agreement for abandonment of service, or for breach of any obligation of that party under this Agreement, and only in accordance with the following procedure:
- (a) A detailed statement setting forth the reasons for the proposed expulsion shall be furnished by the complaining party, and a copy of that statement submitted to the Federal Maritime Commission;
 - (b) The offending party shall have the right to make a statement and to tender documents in its defense at a meeting called to consider the issue;
 - (c) Expulsion of the offending party requires a two-thirds majority of the other parties;
 - (d) If the offending party submits the matter to arbitration under Article 13 within 14 days of that meeting, the decision to expel that party is suspended pending the decision of the arbitrator.
- 7.3 A party may withdraw from this Agreement at any time upon 48 hours written notice to the other parties, and upon providing a copy of that notice to the Federal Maritime Commission. Withdrawal does not affect any existing obligation of that party under Article 12 or 13.

8.8. VOTING

- 8.1 This Agreement may be amended or terminated upon the affirmative unanimous ~~vote of three-quarters~~ of the parties at a meeting called for that purpose, provided that any party not present at that meeting has been given 48 hours notice of the proposed amendment or termination.

- 8.2 Except as provided in Articles 7.2 and 8.1, any consensus under this Agreement shall be adopted as far as possible by general agreement without any vote being taken, but if no agreement can be achieved, a consensus may be adopted by a majority vote of the parties.
- 8.3 Unless a party voting against a consensus under Article 8.2 notifies the other parties, directly or through the Agreement Chairman, to the contrary, it will be assumed that that party does not adhere to the consensus.
- 8.4 A party which adheres to a consensus for the purposes of Articles 8.2 or 8.3 but which decides, pursuant to Articles 2 and 5.3, no longer to adhere or give effect to that decision shall use its best efforts promptly to notify the other parties, directly or ~~through~~through the Agreement Chairman, of its intention until further notice to discontinue that adherence.

9-9. DURATION AND TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement enters into force on the first day it may be lawfully implemented under each of the applicable laws, and shall continue in effect indefinitely unless terminated under Clause 8.1.

~~10-~~10. CONFIDENTIALITY

Except as may be required under the applicable laws or as otherwise agreed between the parties, no party shall disclose to any person, except its own representatives and its own or this Agreement's attorneys, the view or position of any party on any matter considered under this Agreement.

~~11-~~11. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS: INDEPENDENT ACTION

Nothing in this Agreement is to be construed:

- (a) ~~(a)~~ (a) as obligating any party to exchange information, to participate in any activity or meeting, to be or not be a party to any other agreement, or to adhere to any position, without its consent;
- (b) as requiring adherence by any party for any period of time to any consensus reached under Articles 5.3 and 8.2; or
- (c) as limiting the right of any party to continue or alter any tariff it publishes or to which it otherwise adheres, any service it provides, or any commercial practice in which it may engage.

~~12-~~ 12. EXPENSES

Each party will bear the expenses of its own representatives in connection with this Agreement. All other expenses incurred in the carrying out of this Agreement, including any fees or costs of consultants or other ~~services~~services, will be apportioned as the parties from time to time agree, and in default of agreement in equal shares.

~~13-~~ 13. ARBITRATION

13.1 Subject to Article 13.5, a party to this Agreement may refer any question as to the meaning or effect of this Agreement to arbitration by a sole arbitrator in accordance with and subject to this Article and (to the extent that this Article makes no provision) to the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. The arbitrator's decision shall be final and is not subject to appeal.

13.2 In determining any such dispute the arbitrator shall apply the laws of New South Wales.

13.3 The appointing and administering body shall be the ~~Australian Chamber of Shipping~~Commercial Disputes Centre. The language of the arbitration shall be English and the place of arbitration shall be Sydney in the State of New South Wales.

~~13.4~~ 13.4 The following rules apply to the arbitration:

~~(a)~~ (a) Except by agreement of the parties to the arbitration there will be no prehearing discovery.

~~(b)~~ (b) The arbitrator shall decide the matter only on the basis of evidence submitted to him, which evidence shall be supplied to the other parties to the arbitration, who shall be given the opportunity to submit evidence in rebuttal, explanation or mitigation, and to cross-examine any witness.

~~(c)~~ (c) The cost of the arbitration shall be borne equally by the parties to the dispute, and each party shall be liable to pay its own expenses of the arbitration.

~~13.5~~ 13.5 Article 13.1 does not apply:

~~(a)~~ (a) If (a) if the parties to the dispute or difference agree in writing that it is to be resolved by some other means, and

~~(b)~~ (b) (where the agreed means involve arbitration or other proceedings outside Australia) if the Australian Minister administering the Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth) also agrees in writing.

~~13.6~~ 13.6 This Article excludes any right of appeal that a party would otherwise have under Part V of the Commercial Arbitration Act 1984 (NSW), to the full extent permitted by that Act.

~~13.7~~ 13.7 This Article does not affect the jurisdiction of the Federal Maritime Commission under the U.S. Shipping Act of 1984.

14. SERVICE CONTRACTS

14.1 The parties may together negotiate and enter into joint service contracts, ~~including time volume and time revenue contracts~~ (hereinafter jointly referred to as "joint service contracts"), with individual shippers, shippers' associations, shippers' boards or groups authorised by law and/or other groups of shippers (jointly referred to as "Shipper"). Prior to the execution of any joint service contract by the parties, any party may elect not to participate, or to limit its participation therein, in which event the service contract shall so specify. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, no party may exercise independent action to deviate, in any respect whatsoever, from the terms and conditions of any such joint service contract which has been entered into by the parties. Each joint service contract entered into by the Agreement shall be filed in accordance with such rules and regulations as the U.S. Federal Maritime Commission may from time to time prescribe and registered, if necessary, under the Australian Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth).

14.2 Any party, either individually or jointly with any other party or parties, may negotiate, offer and/or enter into a service contract for the transportation of cargo in the ~~trade~~ trades (any such contract entered into by a single party or jointly by multiple parties is hereinafter referred to as an "individual service contract"). The parties are ~~authorized~~ authorised, but not required, to discuss and agree upon any and all terms of their respective individual service contracts and to exchange and discuss any and all information and data concerning their respective individual service contracts. The parties are ~~authorized~~ authorised to discuss, agree upon, adopt, revise and implement voluntary guidelines relating to the terms and procedures of individual service contracts. Any such voluntary guidelines adopted by the parties shall explicitly state that the parties have the right not to follow the guidelines and shall be submitted confidentially to the Federal Maritime Commission.

15. MISCELLANEOUS

In this Agreement "applicable law" means the U.S. Shipping Act ~~1984~~ 1984 (as amended), ~~and the Australian Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth) (as amended) and, for New Zealand, the Commerce Act 1986 (Section 44) and the Shipping Act 1987 (as amended)~~. This Agreement shall be binding upon and enure to the benefit of only the parties hereto.