

203-011279-005

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE DISCUSSION AGREEMENT

FMC Agreement No. 203-011279-004

A Cooperative Working Agreement
(As Defined In 46 C.F.R. 572.104 (H))

Restatement of Agreement

Date of Republication: None

Expiration Date: None

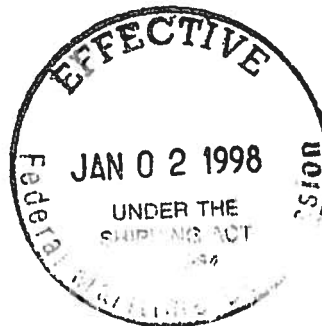


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ARTICLE 1: FULL NAME OF THE AGREEMENT

The full name of the Agreement is the Western Hemisphere Discussion Agreement (the "Agreement").

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

The purpose of the Agreement is through authorization of discussion, consultation and development of consensus to foster commerce, service and stability in the Agreement trade(s) while maintaining the parties' freedom of competitive action.

ARTICLE 3: PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

The Parties to this Agreement are set forth in Appendix A. Each of the Parties shall be referred to individually as a "Party" or "Signatory" and collectively as "Parties" or "Signatories."

ARTICLE 4: GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall cover the following trades, via direct or transshipment service: the trade between ports in the United States and U.S. inland and coastal points served via such ports, including ports and points in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, on the one hand and, on the other hand, (a) ports in all countries in the Caribbean and Central America, including Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Leeward and Windward Islands, Bahamas Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama and inland and coastal points served via such ports; (b) ports in Ecuador, Chile, Peru and on the Pacific Coast of Colombia, and coastal and inland points served via such ports, including inland points in Bolivia; and (c) ports in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay; and inland and coastal points served via such ports.

ARTICLE 5: AGREEMENT AUTHORITY

(1) The signatories, through their membership or through duly designated representatives (which may include one or more member lines of each Conference or Discussion Agreement signatory), may confer and meet together jointly or with one another to discuss the following matters, and to commission, prepare, issue and circulate joint reports and statements relating thereto:

(a) The signatories are authorized, but not required, to meet, exchange information or otherwise discuss their separate tariffs, general rate levels, service items, rules and service contracts, in the trade. The authority of the signatories includes, discussion and consideration, of all aspects of transportation and service in the trade, including general rate levels, charges, classifications, practices, terms, conditions and rules and regulations applicable to transportation of cargo in the trade and to service provided in connection therewith, notice periods for changing rates, service items, port-to-port rates, overland rates, minilandbridge rates, interior point intermodal rates, proportional rates, through rates, inland portions of through rates, joint rates, minimum rates, surcharges, arbitraries, volume rates, time/volume rates, project loyalty arrangements or fidelity commission systems, conforming to the anti-trust laws of the United States, consolidation, consolidation allowances, rates on commodities exempt from tariff filing, absorptions, equalization, substituted (alternate port) services, allowances, freight forwarder compensation, brokerage, the conditions determining such compensation or brokerage and the payment thereof, receiving, handling, storing, and delivery of cargo, designation of base ports and points, pick up and delivery charges, free time practices, detention, demurrage, container depots, terminals and other points of cargo receipt, vanning, devanning, furnishing equipment to or leasing equipment from shippers/consignees/inland carriers/others, collection agents at destination, maintaining and distributing information and data **and statistics and all other practices, rules, regulations, and matters ancillary to transportation of cargo moving within the scope of this Agreement, rules regarding the time and currency in which the signatories collect their rates and charges, pooling or restricting or otherwise regulating the number and character of sailings between ports, limiting or regulating in any way the volume or character of freight traffic to be carried and the need for or desirability of exclusive, preferential or cooperative working arrangements.**

(b) Developments and changes affecting transportation by member lines of the several signatories, such as containerization, utilization, palletization, cargo inspection, port and terminal costs and related charges, and intermodal transportation generally;

(c) Establishment and maintenance by the signatories of a common credit system, policing system or cargo inspection system;

(d) Public relations regarding the services provided by the signatories and by their respective member lines; and

(e) Promotion of commerce in trades served by the signatories;

(f) Legal questions; and

(g) Proposed or enacted legislation of any government; actual or proposed executive decisions and orders of any government; actual or proposed decisions or other actions of the courts, administrative agencies, port authorities, or other agencies or instrumentalities of any government; and actual or proposed decisions or other actions of terminal conferences or other associations of carriers, shippers or other persons concerned with the foreign commerce of the United States.

(2) This Agreement does not authorize the agreement on, or collective establishment of, rates or charges or common tariffs. The signatories are not required hereunder to agree upon, or if they do agree, to adhere to any uniform practices or conditions of service, or other decision.

(3) An agreement made hereunder is an agreement on behalf of and is binding on each individual member line of a Conference or Discussion Agreement signatory to the same extent that the signatory is bound.

(4) The signatories may meet in person, by telephone or conduct business by written, telex or telefax exchanges. At any meeting in order to foster a consensus, all member lines of a Conference or Discussion Agreement signatory may communicate directly with each other and express their views with respect to any matter authorized herein.

(5) To further assist in reaching a consensus all individual member lines of a Conference or Discussion Agreement signatory may communicate directly with some or all of the other signatories, including other individual member lines of a Conference or Discussion Agreement signatory, and exchange information with them, with respect to any matter authorized herein prior to meeting of the Agreement.

ARTICLE 6: OFFICIALS OF THE AGREEMENT AND DELEGATION OF
AUTHORITY

The signatories may appoint administrative officials as they deem appropriate and shall share the expenses of the Agreement as they may from time-to-time determine. The persons authorized to execute and file the Agreement or any subsequent modifications thereto with, and submit associated supporting materials to, the Federal Maritime Commission are Sher & Blackwell, attorneys at law, or such other persons as the parties may hereafter designate in writing.

ARTICLE 7: MEMBERSHIP AND WITHDRAWAL

Any ocean common carrier (as defined in the Shipping Act of 1984) which is regularly engaged as an ocean common carrier in the trade(s), or any Conference or Discussion Agreement of ocean common carriers whose members offer a regular service in the trade(s), directly or by transshipment, or which furnishes evidence of ability and an intention in good faith to institute and maintain a regular service in the trade(s), may hereafter become a party to this Agreement by signing the Agreement or a counterpart copy thereof and furnishing the same to the other parties. Prompt notice of admission to membership shall be furnished to the Federal Maritime Commission and no admission shall be effective prior to the date a party's admission is effective in accordance with the regulations of the Federal Maritime Commission. Any signatory may terminate its membership in the Agreement without penalty by giving thirty (30) days' written notice to the other signatories. Notice of withdrawal of a signatory shall be promptly furnished to the Federal Maritime Commission.

ARTICLE 8: VOTING

There is no voting under this Agreement. Any consensus or agreement reached by some or all signatories hereunder shall be a matter of voluntary adherence by those parties choosing to so agree.

ARTICLE 9: DURATION AND TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall enter into force, and may be implemented, as of the first day it becomes effective pursuant to the Shipping Act of 1984. This Agreement shall continue in effect indefinitely until cancelled by the parties.

ARTICLE 10: AMENDMENTS AND EXECUTION

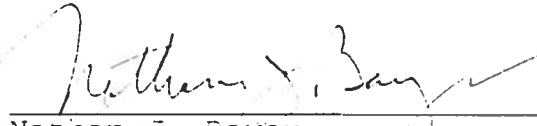
This Agreement may be modified by two-thirds agreement of the signatories and any modification hereto shall be executed in writing. If it is executed by separate counterparts, each such counterpart shall be deemed an original, and all of which together shall constitute a single instrument.

Western Hemisphere Discussion
Agreement
FMC Agreement No. 203-011279-004

SIGNATURE PAGE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties to Agreement No. 203-
011279 hereby agree, this 10th day of November, 1997, to restate
the Agreement as per the attached pages and to file same with the
U.S. Federal Maritime Commission.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE
DISCUSSION AGREEMENT



Nathan J. Bayer
Authorized to execute pursuant
to Article 6 of the Agreement

APPENDIX A

The parties to the Agreement are:

Central America Discussion Agreement
c/o Associated Conferences Secretariat, Inc.
6565 Taft Street, Suite 201
Hollywood, Florida 33024

Southeastern Caribbean Discussion Agreement
c/o Associated Conferences Secretariat, Inc.
6565 Taft Street, Suite 201
Hollywood, Florida 33024

Hispaniola Discussion Agreement
c/o Associated Conferences Secretariat, Inc.
6565 Taft Street, Suite 201
Hollywood, Florida 33024

U.S./Jamaica Discussion Agreement
c/o Associated Conferences Secretariat, Inc.
6565 Taft Street, Suite 201
Hollywood, Florida 33024

Venezuela American Maritime Association
c/o Associated Conferences Secretariat, Inc.
6565 Taft Street, Suite 201
Miami, Florida 33024

Caribbean Shipowners Association
c/o TSI
Galleria Professional Building, Suite 600
915 Middle River Drive
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304-3598

Aruba Bonaire Curacao Liner Association
c/o TSI
Galleria Professional Building, Suite 600
915 Middle River Drive
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304-3598

Inter-American Freight Conference
c/o Associated Conferences Secretariat, Inc.
111 E. Pavonia Avenue East, Suite 434
Jersey City, NJ 07310

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Venezuelan Discussion Agreement
c/o Associated Conferences Secretariat, Inc.
6565 Taft Street, Suite 201
Hollywood, Florida 33024

Puerto Rico/Caribbean Discussion Agreement
c/o Associated Conferences Secretariat, Inc.
6565 Taft Street, Suite 201
Hollywood, Florida 33024