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Top Story

IMO approves mandatory container weight verification



chain stakeholders implement of the container weight verification requirement, MSC has issued circular with implementation guidelines.

The MSC also approved a new Code of Practice for the Packing of Cargo Transport Units, including intermodal shipping containers. The new CTU Code, which replaces the current IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of CTU, has already been approved by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and will now go before the International Labour organization for approval.

The CTU Code provides information and guidance to shippers, packers and other parties in the international supply chains for the safe packing, handling and transport of CTUs.

"We congratulate the IMO Secretary General and the IMO member governments for developing and approving these measures that, when properly implemented and enforced, should provide for long-needed improvement to maritime safety," said Chris Koch, president and CEO of the World Shipping Council. "The SOLAS amendments and related implementation guidelines regarding container weight verification represent a collaborative effort that we were pleased to be a part of and we look forward to final adoption of the amendments in November 2014."

The Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization today approved changes to the Safety of Life at Sea convention requiring verification of container weights prior to loading all export containers aboard ships.

Wrongly declared container weights have been a chronic problem for the transportation industry because they can cause safety hazards for ships, crews, other on-ship cargo, dockworkers handling containers, and on the roads. Inaccurately stated container weights also triggers Customs concerns.

The changes to SOLAS are effective July 2016, given final adoption by the MSC in November 2014. In order to help supply

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