

President's Report

Dear ITCO Members,

First off, I would like to wish all ITCO members (at least those in the Northern Hemisphere!) a safe and relaxing vacation season. I hope you are able to take a well-earned break, and return with the batteries re-charged. I suspect the second half of the year will be commercially challenging (see the compilation of Market Data later in this Newsletter), and the ITCO agenda will certainly be busy. More on that shortly.

The ITCO Village at Transport Logistics in Shanghai was a great success, with excellent feedback from the many exhibitors I spoke to over the course of the three days. My thanks to Kate for all her work behind the scenes to ensure such a professional and representative event for ITCO.

My thanks also to CIMC Safeway and Jee for sponsoring the well-attended ITCO reception in the evening of the first day.



Preparations have already started for the **ITCO Tank Container Village** at **transport logistic 2025**, Munich, and you will have seen that the website is open for Registration.

During the Shanghai event, your President was invited to give a presentation on ITCO to the China-based Tank Container Development Alliance. It was a great opportunity to present the scope of ITCO activities, and the value we bring as an industry association. It was clear that ITCO has a well-established and respected profile in China. As a very generous gesture of appreciation TCDA presented ITCO with a model container ship which will be put on display in the ITCO office.



As I mentioned earlier, there is a full program of events and activities between now and the end of the year. The Management Committee will meet early September to review progress on the Digital Twin and Depot Assessment Work Groups, as well as proposals for revisions to the ITCO Rules of Administration. There are also initiatives, still at an early stage, to set up a Work Group to improve drayage services to and from port piers and terminals.

Plans are moving ahead for the ITCO Awareness program, with the Rotterdam STC College, led by Jarno Weps of EXSIF, and taking place in September.

Plans are also well-advanced for the ITCO Annual Members' Meeting at The Woodlands in Houston on October 28/29. It is promising to be another excellent event, with a strong line-up of speakers. Registration is already open for this event, so I'm looking forward to catching up with many of our members.

Finally, our 2nd Town Hall for all ITCO Members is scheduled for December 5th.

Please stay tuned for more announcements and details about all of these events and activities, as they become available.

My very best regards

Paul Gooch

President
president@itco.org

2024 Members Meeting: All Set for Houston

The 2024 ITCO Members Meeting will take place at the Woodlands Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton on Tuesday 29 October 2024.

The Meeting will commence with a Networking Welcome Reception and Buffet for all participants on the evening of Monday 28 October.

Tuesday will begin with a "Get-Together" Breakfast. This will be followed by a Full-Day Conference, comprising a number of external speakers, as well as reports and discussion about on ITCO's Work Groups, Projects and Activities

The Day will conclude with a "Post-Conference" Cocktail Reception.

Conference agenda

The opening presentation – "Port Houston: cargo growth and infrastructure development" – will be given by Ricardo Arias, Trade Development Manager, Port Houston, who will give an overview of the port's current expansion plans and channel development, together with a picture of its global trade.

The shipper's perspective will be discussed in the following topic – "How do Tank Containers fit into a Chemical Company's sustainable logistics strategy?"

Following mid-morning refreshments, Jason Carl, Managing Director, North America, PSA BDP will discuss "Supply chain solutions and digital products for the chemical industry."

The final presentation of the morning will provide participants with an update on the project being undertaken by ITCO to develop a global Depot Audit System.

After lunch, the focus will be on ITCO in the Americas. Lucas Luckmann, Intermodal Tank Transport, Santos, Brazil, will speak about: "Latin America: Challenges and Opportunities for the Tank Container business"



This will be followed by an Open Discussion: "Future Development of ITCO in the Americas"

The final session of the afternoon will cover ITCO's current and future projects. Thomas Tweddle, Global Fleet Manager, Royal Den Hartogh Logistics, will discuss the issue of how to develop "Global Trucking Standards for Tank Containers" – what should be the minimum standard of safety and behaviour for the road transport of tank containers.

The afternoon will conclude with a review of the technical, regulatory and standards work being undertaken by ITCO.

Conference Registration

The Registration Fee to attend the Meeting is as follows:

- ITCO Members: €375.00
- Non-Members: €695.00

This includes: Welcome Reception and Buffet Dinner, Breakfast, Lunch, Coffee Breaks, Conference Sessions and Post-Conference Reception.

To register for the meeting, please click on this link:

[REGISTRATION](#)

Special Hotel Room Rates – Book now to benefit

Delegates wishing to stay at The Woodlands Resort can benefit from a Special Room Rate of US\$251.85 (plus discounts for other resort benefits).

To book your room, click on this link: [WOODLANDS](#) and please use the code: IE1027

If you have any problem using the link or if you need accommodation outside the contracted nights (27-30 October) please contact:

Jenna Brown or Maryia Linton, Group Room Coordinators:

Email: wlrgroupchanges@woodlandsresort.com

Tel: 281.367.1100

There are a limited number of rooms available at this rate – so please make your booking as soon as possible.

Meeting Venue

The Venue for the Meeting is the Woodland Resort, Curio Collection by Hilton - 2301 N Millbend Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77380, USA.

Click on this link for further details: [Woodland Resort](#)



ITCO Golf Tournament on Monday 28 October


As part of this year's event, ITCO is arranging the ITCO 2024 Golf Tournament – an opportunity for anyone who would like to enjoy a game of golf with their industry colleagues.

The aim is to have a “shotgun” start and permit the event to finish in time for the Welcome Reception starting at 6pm.

Further details, include the golf course, timings and registration, will be published in August. In the meantime, if your company is interested in becoming a sponsor, further information from **Paul Gooch on president@itco.org**





2025 TANK CONTAINER VILLAGE

Stand Information Package and Booking Form Available Now

The transport logistic 2025 exhibition takes place in Munich, from Monday 2 to Thursday 5 June 2025. ITCO will once again be organising the Tank Container Village at the event.

Members of ITCO are invited to apply for an Exhibition Stand in the Village. To download the Stand Information Package and Stand Booking Form, click on this link: [ITCO VILLAGE](#).

As in previous events, a limited number of Exhibition Stands are available. Bookings will be handled on a “first-come, first-served” basis.

The position of each exhibitor will be confirmed at a draw to take place at the end of November 2024.

To make your reservation, complete and return the form below BEFORE 15 OCTOBER 2024 to:

- Ines Neumann: ines.neumann@meplan.de
- Kate Marszalek: secretary@itco.org

Book your Exhibition Stand!

Busy 3 Days at the Shanghai Tank Container Village

The transport logistic China 2024 exhibition took place in Shanghai at the end of June. The Tank Container Village, organised by ITCO, was again one of the busiest areas of the whole event. The Village comprised 26 separate booths, where ITCO Members were able to present their equipment and services to their customers and industry contacts.

At the end of Day 1, a Networking Reception was held for all ITCO Members, generously sponsored by CIMC.



MARKETUPDATE

In addition to our general ITCO Update and our Technical Report, we are now introducing a new "Market Update" section in the monthly ITCO Newsletters

Chemicals: Supply and Demand

Demand for chemicals in the US looks set to continue to modestly improve through the second half of 2024. US chemical volumes are expected to increase 2.2% for this year and 1.9% in 2025 after posting a 1.3% contraction in 2023, according to the American Chemistry Council (ACC). However, a lot of the first-half improvement, particularly in specialties, was related to the end of inventory destocking in late 2023 and early 2024.

While volumes are expected to grow year over year, "we expect US chemical companies to trim 2024 volume expectations another 0.5%-1% this earnings season to reflect the absence of significant positive demand catalysts and consequently a return to typical seasonality," said Laurence Alexander, an analyst with Jefferies LLC (New York).

Global ethylene operating rates likely troughed in 2023, but S&P Global Ratings is "expecting just a slow improvement in operating rates the next few years." In Europe, demand may have bottomed out, but energy cost and regulatory issues remain. (Chemical Week Finance and Strategy Insider) Germany's chemical industry association VCI forecast that chemical companies' order books will continue to improve in the second half of this year. VCI expects chemical production in Germany to increase by 3.5% in 2024, whereas sales will rise by 1.5%, which means foreign business is driving the growth. However, the mood of VCI members is less bullish, with only 30% of companies seeing an economic recovery, and 50% expecting business to improve in the second half of 2024, or during 2025, based on the VCI's most recent survey.

The most outspoken comments have come from Sir Jim Ratcliffe during a Bloomberg interview.

"It is finished. The high costs of energy and carbon have left Europe's petrochemical industry struggling to compete with the

rest of the world. Europe today is a mess for petrochemicals. Everyone is leaving petrochemicals behind in Europe, something I have never seen before in my working life."

Ratcliffe cites the UK as a case study, arguing that "the country's industry has all but collapsed. There isn't much of a chemical industry in Britain anymore. It's finished". (The New Normal Report)

Beverage Business

Although our market updates tend to be focused on chemicals, we are well aware that many of our members are active in the global beverage trades.

Our attention was therefore drawn to the following CNN Business news item.

Pernod Ricard has announced that they are selling most of their wine brands in the face of declining global wine consumption, and instead will focus on growing their champagne and premium spirit labels. They have sold seven wineries in Australia, New Zealand, and Spain to Australian Wine Holdco Ltd, including the following brands: Jacob's Creek, St Hugo, Orlando, Stoneleigh, Brancott Estate, Church Road, Campo Viego, Ysios, Tarsus, and Azpilicueta. Global wine consumption has been declining since 2018, and consumers are switching to beer and spirits.

Diageo sold its wine business in 2015 to Treasury Wine Estates.

Pernod Ricard will invest in a new US-based company, North American Distillers, to support its American whiskey portfolio which it sees as an area of potential growth.

Logistics and Trade

Trade from the Far East to a bloc of developing economies, especially South America, Africa and the Middle East/Indian Subcontinent, has risen dramatically and has emerged as a key driver of global container trade, according to a new report from Clarksons.

The world's largest shipbroker said that trade between the Far East and these developing economies was up 16% year-on-year in the first four months of the year, and showed a 30% growth compared to 2019, the year before the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

After a stagnant 2023, in which container trade grew by just 0.6% from 2022, container shipments came up to 58 million TEU between January and April, an 8% increase from the year-ago period. This also marked the strongest start to container shipping in any year. (Container News)

The Containerized Freight Index is up 300% year-on-year this July. The Red Sea crisis has done more than just add fuel costs to the global supply chain. It has also caused inordinate congestion and delays across the world's ports adding fuel to today's shipping spot rates - which are on fire.

Meanwhile, over 1.6 million TEUs of container shipping capacity have been added to the global fleet so far this year. Most of this has gone into making up for lost time and servicing longer shipping routes around the Cape of Good Hope.

Much capacity is also tied up in ships waiting for days outside of ports looking for the next available berth to unload their cargos. Carriers deploying a "ship bunching" strategy has further aggravated the situation.

From Shanghai to Singapore, from ports in the Mediterranean to the US coasts, the longer the ships wait outside of ports, the greater the chances of blank sailings, the cost of which is ultimately passed on to shippers.

(Transport and Logistics Middle East)

TECHNICAL REPORT

Seals and gaskets - restriction of manufacture and supply

ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) is evaluating the possibility of restricting seal and gasket materials that fall within the scope of PFAS restrictions for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

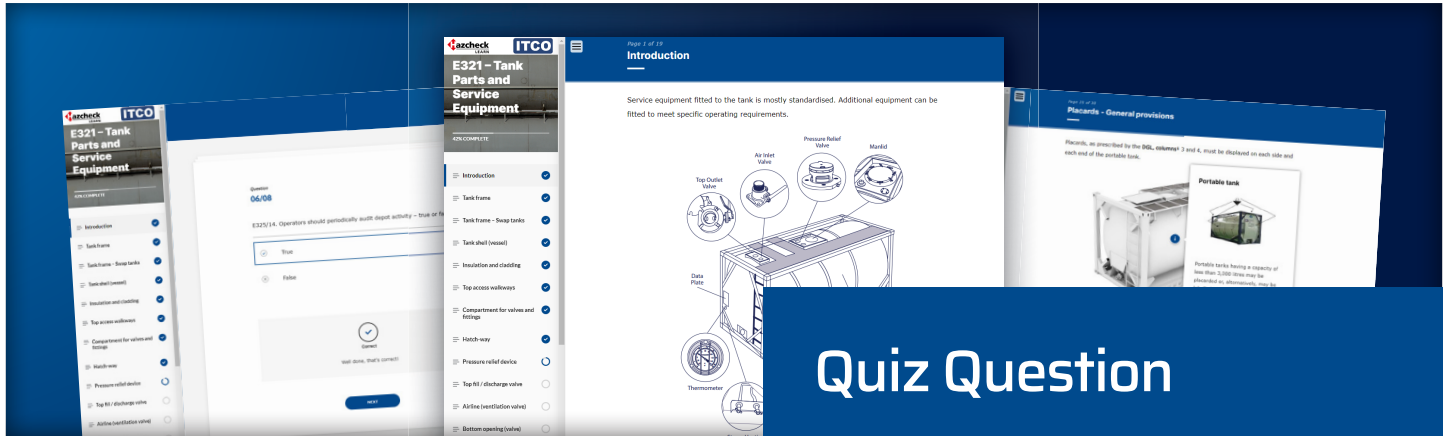
The ongoing evaluation is due to focus on the transport sector in November 2024. The evaluation is at high level. It is not known if ECHA will drill down to tank transport at this stage.

When the ECHA preliminary report is issued, ITCO will respond to the findings.

In the meantime, representation and awareness of the severe risks to chemical transport is proposed at EU country level; since the restrictions will ultimately be decided by EU parliament.

ITCO members who have the opportunity to raise the topic with their respective governmental officials are requested to do so.

ITCO has joined with UIP (European Railways) to produce a joint briefing paper which may be used by members to assist with awareness of the risks should the restriction take place. For the time being, a detailed PFAS case study is currently available from ITCO website.



ITCO Tank Container e-Learning Course

The updated course is now available from <https://hazcheck.com/product/itco-tank-container-e-learning-course/>

The course offers guidance on the safe operation of tank containers covering:

- Introduction to tank container types and their use, safety features and environmental sustainability.
- Tank parts and service equipment and their purpose.
- Regulations – use of the IMDG Code and the process to determine the appropriate Portable Tank Instruction and Tank Provision, degree of filling and provisions relating to placarding and marking.
- Tank operator's transport plan – sets the course content and studies in the context of a case study of an operational transport plan.
- Tank depot processes when moving a tank in/out of a depot facility.
- M&R – introduces tank cleaning processes, damage estimate preparation and acceptable container condition, Inspection and test.

Quiz Question

1. IMDG UN Portable Tank TP2 (Tank Provision requires UN 2821 Phenol Solution to be filled to Tank Provision TP2 (DGL column 14) which provides a formula for degree of filling.

$$\text{Degree of filling} = \frac{95}{1 + a(t_r - t_f)}$$

Question: What is the meaning of TP2?

- i. Tank filled to no more than 95%.
- ii. Tank filled to no less than 95%.
- iii. Tank fill requires variables data provided and the formula calculated to determine degree of filling.

2. IMDG Chapter 5.3 provisions requires that the portable tanks transporting dangerous goods or residues of dangerous goods shall clearly display placards and marks.

- a. Is the placard required:
 - I. Each side?
 - II. Each end?
 - III. Each side and each end?
- b) The UN number should be displayed:
 - I. On or immediately adjacent to the placard?
 - II. On the ends only?
- c) The proper shipping name should be displayed:
 - I. At least on both sides?
 - II. On the ends only?
 - III. Not required if a placard is displayed?

Please send your answers to Colin Rubery, ITCO Technical Secretary, on rubery@itco.org

Elimination of dual approval of tanks under chapters 6.7 and 6.8 of RID/ADR

ITCO hosted the first of two virtual RID/ADR Tank Working Group Intercessional Meetings on Dual Approval of Intermodal tanks on 9 July 2024 with over 50 participants from ITCO membership, regulators and standards bodies.

The first meeting asked participants to comment on a compiled list of issues and consequences that will need to be addressed to enable a smooth transition for industry - if dual approval should no longer be permitted. So far, regulators have issued proposals which include removing one of the approvals from in-service tanks of any age and so this will be a very significant challenge.

The first issue discussed recognised that regulators had already moved to ensure Portable Tank approvals to IMDG are recognised throughout RID/ADR territories (RID/ADR 2025 edition), and the second provided the groundwork to permit Portable Tanks operating on road/rail within RID/ADR territories to operate as bottom discharge on many products where Chapter 6.8 tank containers were so permitted.

The balance of the 10 issues on the agenda were worked through, prompting further ideas and input, both verbally (during the meeting, in comments), and also some notable representations from UIC and ITCO members following the meeting.

Further preparatory work is underway to update this schedule in time for the second intercessional meeting on 30 July for which invitations to ITCO members have been issued. Further information about registration from hicks@itco.org

Revision of ISO 1496-3 Series 1 freight containers — Specification and testing — Part 3: Tank containers for liquids, gases and pressurized dry bulk.

ISO TC 104/SC2 voted in April 2024 to start work on updating our industry standard and the working group ISO TC104/SC2/WG4 is due to hold its first meeting on 20 August 2024. WG 4 is Chaired by Colin Rubery (BSI) and Mike Himbury (WG 4 member, also from BSI), will lead through the 41 proposals to resolve errors, corrections and improvements.

One of the initial proposals from BSI is for the experts to discuss whether UN MEGC are to be included in the scope of this standard and be regulated as such.

If any members of ITCO wish to access and/or provide their thoughts on these early proposals please submit a request either to me by email (himbury@itco.org); or through their national standards body (NSB) for those countries who elect to be Participating Members in the standard work. It would be a good thing if more members could engage with their NSBs to provide valuable expertise into this process.

UN Sub Committee of Experts TDG 64th Session - June/July 2024 - Key Extracts from the report

- a. Proposal to adopt regulations to permit the transport of Class 2 non refrigerated gases in FRP Portable Tanks (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2024/19 (Russian Federation)) The UNSCET-DG requested more data on the safe operation of recently approved UN FRP Portable Tanks for liquids prior to setting up an informal WG to develop the proposed regulation for FRP non-refrigerated gas portable gas tanks.
- b. In UN Model Regulations Ch 6.7 replace references to "ISO 1496-3:1995." by "ISO 1496-3:2019". Design types conforming to ISO 1496-3:1995 approved before 1 January 2030 may continue to be used. Tests specified in ISO 1496-3:1995 may continue to be used until 31 December 2029.
- c. In UN Model Regulations for Dry Bulk, replace "ISO 1496-4:1991" by "ISO 1496-4:2023", and "Bulk container types complying with ISO 1496-4:1991 may continue to be used until 31 December 2034."