



**INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER LESSORS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 30, 2007**

**INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER LESSORS**

**CONCLUDES SECOND CONTAINER FLOORING FORUM**

Institute of International Container Lessors (IICL) President, Steve Blust, announced that on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the IICL conducted its second container flooring forum in Hong Kong. The purpose of the forum was to update key industry segments, on IICL efforts in improving flooring performance, and to help build a consensus for future technical development including the quality and sustainability of the flooring material utilized, as well as the cost and weight effectiveness of those materials.

The forum was facilitated by the IICL Container Flooring Working Group which is chaired by Mr. Tony Sowry of Textainer Equipment Management. The working group has been tasked with looking into a number of issues ranging from the production of plywood to the possible use of alternative materials and flooring systems.

In attendance at the forum were more than 50 individuals representing Ocean Carriers, container and plywood manufacturers, various industry vendors as well as IICL member companies. "I was impressed by the active involvement of the participants from such a broad cross-section of the container industry" said Mr. Blust.

The program featured an update by working group project leaders dealing with wood performance standards, wood identification, quality assurance audits and container floor alternative designs. All participants visited a local depot to view five alternative floor design prototype containers built specifically for viewing at the forum and discussion afterwards.

The forum concluded with an open discussion regarding a host of topics dealing with environmental issues, availability of quality wood, alternative designs and materials.



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As a direct result of the input from the forum participants, the IICL has decided to further evaluate two alternative floor system designs that reduce the quantity of wood used by fifty percent, as possible short-range and potentially long-range solutions to the flooring challenges envisioned ahead. Refined prototype units have been built and are now being rigorously tested to ensure the design meets safety and materials criteria. The tests, when completed, will be reviewed by the working group for acceptability. Upon satisfactory completion of the test and review, it is envisioned that additional units will be placed into service to live-test their market suitability.

In conjunction with these initiatives the IICL is working with a number of industry partners that are providing invaluable assistance and expertise with these projects. “The IICL views this work as an important part of our industry’s ongoing need to provide sustainable and cost-effective container flooring” said Blust.

All projects are facilitated by the IICL Technology Committee, which is chaired by Mr. Luiz Goncalves of Florens Container Services and is under the direction of Gary Danback, IICL Director of Technical Services.

The Institute of International Container Lessors, Ltd. (IICL) is a trade association, organized in 1971, representing lessors of maritime containers and intermodal chassis. Its member companies are Amficon, CAI, Carlisle, Cronos, Flexi-Van, Florens, GE SeaCO, Gold, Interpool, Textainer, Trac, TAL and Triton. IICL members own or manage approximately 90 percent of the global leased container fleet, representing nearly half of the world container fleet and half of the U.S. chassis fleet operated by ocean carriers, railroads, and other companies. The IICL is active in governmental, regulatory, educational, technological, environmental and security issues. In addition to its widely accepted publications and annual inspector certification examinations, the IICL offers a wide range of educational training courses.

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