



CIFFA Committee Meetings – August and September 2024

CIFFA's national committees meet several times a year to discuss relevant issues or developments that may affect member companies. Following is a look at what committee members discussed and decided at their most-recent meetings.

Airfreight Committee – Chair Bill Gottlieb

- Transport Canada has implemented **new security requirements for airlines** in response to threats to cargo in Europe. Effective immediately, cargo originating from Europe or Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries and arriving in Canada will not be accepted from a shipper without an established business relationship (i.e., an active account in existence before August 29, 2024, with physical and billing addresses and payment or credit history documented through invoices, billing records or documented sales) with their forwarder/agent or the air carrier, or unless they are a Known Consignor. The requirements were introduced with a very short window for compliance and limited communications from Transport Canada – and have already seen changes, leading to confusion for all parties involved in the movement of goods by air to Canada.
- The deadline to **register in Transport Canada's client identification database** if your organization imports, offers for transport, handles or transports dangerous goods in Canada is October 25.
- Transport Canada's **Pre-load Air Cargo Targeting (PACT) Program** is still expected to go live in November.

Customs Committee – Chair Paul Courtney

- A recent pilot project involving the CBSA, U.S. CBP, a CIFFA member freight forwarding company and a trucking company successfully **tested a new, simplified process to ship bonded freight across the border** to the U.S. CIFFA will follow up with the CBSA to discuss next steps to potentially make the process standard practice in the industry.
- The CBP has issued a list of **vague cargo descriptions that are no longer accepted** for ACAS (Air Cargo Advance Screening). In Canada, the CBSA is issuing penalties for vague descriptions even on companies' first offences.
- The cutover date for the **CBSA Assessment and Revenue Management (CARM) system** is October 5, which is required for the CBSA to migrate existing systems and functionality to CARM systems and functionality for the CARM R3 October 21 go-live. CIFFA does not anticipate another deferral of the launch. The Standing Committee on International Trade (CIIT) will soon reconvene and CARM is expected to remain a focus. Delays at the border when the system is implemented should be expected.
- In the first quarter of this year, there was a significant reduction in **AMPS penalties**. CIFFA learned that this was because CBSA employees responsible for assessing penalties had been temporarily

shifted to work on CARM. When CARM was deferred in the spring, those employees were back to work on compliance, so penalties will likely be seen to have risen in the second quarter. The same pattern will probably repeat with CARM R3 in October.

Customs Regulatory Committee – Chair Kim Campbell

- The committee is planning to **host a call to discuss CARM concerns** from a customs broker's perspective. Mostly for Q&A, the session will give CIFFA customs broker members and others an opportunity to access the information they most need. It will also allow CIFFA to address specific member concerns to the CBSA.

Drayage Committee – Chair Chris Ford

- On July 16, CIFFA hosted a **drayage town hall and dinner in Toronto**, bringing together 25 dray operators in the area, mostly non-members of the association. The goals of the event were to introduce CIFFA to a new audience in the dray community and to provide both an interesting and informative presentation and a networking opportunity. CN presented to the group.
- Effective November 30, the **Office of the B.C. Container Trucking Commissioner (OBCCTC)** has cancelled all container trucking services (CTS) licences for carriers that provide dray services to and from B.C. ports. As of December 1, new licences for the two-year period ending on November 30, 2026, will be issued to applicants. (The application period closed on August 6.) Half of the 1,550 truck tags will be issued to independent operators, the other half to company trucks. Applicants are ranked based on CTS experience and compliance, as well as truck readiness.
- Much of the committee's discussion focuses on **driver experiences at rail terminals**, particularly in the Toronto area, and engagement with the railways to improve those experiences.

Freight Brokers Committee – Co-Chairs Tim Drake, Gary Nicholson

- The committee met a couple of days ahead of the strike/lockout deadline in the **negotiations between CN/CPKC and their labour union** and discussed potential impacts on freight brokers and the industry as a whole. Trucking prices were rising in anticipation of the work stoppage, and the pre-lockout staged network shutdown had already created a week's backup on some products. The committee expectation was that the federal government would be forced to intervene after just a few days without rail service.
- Committee members finalized a **new load broker service agreement**, which has since been posted in the [Resources section of CIFFA's website](#). It is available only to members.

Seafreight Committee – Chair Martin Schultz

- Committee members discussed the **possibility of work stoppages** at the Port of Montreal, the B.C. ports and the U.S. East and Gulf Coast ports, as well as Air Canada.
- Reported **dwell times** at both the Port of Montreal and the Port of Vancouver are down.

- New **port improvement fees** are being seen at some marine terminals, charged on behalf of carriers that are required to pay these fees to the ports.

Sustainability Committee – Chair Christina Fisker

- The Sustainability Committee is finalizing a **white paper on social sustainability**, the second in a series of three blueprint documents.

Technology Committee – Chair Marc Bibeau

- The committee has narrowed down its choices for the topic of its **next white paper**.
- It is also planning **one or more webinars** based on – and expanding on – the content of its most recently published paper, [*Unlocking the Potential. An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and its Potential Use in Logistics.*](#)

If you are interested in joining any of the national committees, please send your request to either admin@ciffa.com or the Regional Chair for your area, whose contact details can be found in the [National Board of Directors listing](#) on the CIFFA website.