E-Flash No. 63 – 29 November 2013

1. Look out for fraudulent bill of lading

The International Transport Intermediaries Club (ITIC) recently reported in its publication Claims Review about a forged bill of lading court case which may be of interest to FIATA members. The article referred to the case of a Belgian ship agent which released six containers of castor oil, valued at US$270,000, against a fraudulent bill of lading. The containers were shipped to Belgium from India and the bill of lading presented to release the goods was a forgery. ITIC says it has never been easier for documents to be cleverly forged, and warns ship agents that they need to ensure that they thoroughly check the details on bills of lading and other such documentation. Read more at: http://www.itic-insure.com

2. The Russian Federation cancels its TIR agreement

The European Commission informs that the Russian Federal Customs Service (FCS) has confirmed the termination of its agreement with the national guaranteeing association for TIR operations in the Russian Federation as of 1 December 2013. That means that it will no longer be possible to use TIR carnets for goods to be directly transported to or from Russia. For transit operations in the EU territory, only the EU transit procedure can be used. EU operators are therefore advised to take into account the need for different transit procedures in the EU and in Russia for transports of goods to and from Russia. For the customs transit procedure in the EU, further information is available from the dedicated web page of the European Commission or via the information centres of the EU Member States. View these pages, respectively, at:
and
http://ec.europa.eu/ecip/help/national_helpdesks/index_en.htm

3. The 2014 FIATA Headquarter Session

The 2014 FIATA Headquarter Session will be held at the Swissôtel in Oerlikon, Zurich, Switzerland from 20 to 23 March 2014. A formal invitation will be released soon along with a detailed programme, instructions for registration, and information on relevant hotel accommodation.

4. Introduction of a new Visa Information System (VIS) for Schengen countries

Switzerland has a new system for Swiss/Schengen Visa procedures. It would be useful for FIATA members, in need of a Swiss/Schengen Visa, to attend the 2014 FIATA Headquarter Session in Zurich, for example, to have a look into these changes. We would strongly suggest a visit to the below website where you can obtain all the necessary information about the visa procedure and online information to apply for your visa:
https://www.bfm.admin.ch/content/bfm/en/home/themen/einreise/merkblatt_einreise.html

5. The Addition of Two New ICAO FIATA DG Training Centers

FIATA has recently given accreditation to two new training centres in the Middle East to deliver the ICAO FIATA Dangerous Goods Training Programme in their local market. The Pakistan International Freight Forwarders Association and Petra Travel and Tourism Institute both put forth strong applications which were objectively assessed and approved. FIATA looks forward to working with these training centres to increase the standards of dangerous goods training in the Middle East. We highly encourage all those interested in delivering dangerous goods training to come forward and submit their application to
become an ICAO FIATA DG Training Centre and work closely with FIATA to establish dangerous goods training within the local market. Interested applicants should contact eid@fiata.com.

6. Pre-announcement of the UIC/FIATA Rail Market Place Seminar

UIC and FIATA are pleased to announce the sixth edition of the Market Place Seminar that will be held 2 to 3 April 2014 in Trieste, Italy. The seminar will bring together railway undertakings, terminal operators, freight forwarders, and customers. Please mark these important dates in your agenda. More information will be made available in due course.

7. Regional Symposium on Strategic Trends in Air Cargo held in Sao Paulo, Brazil

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, in collaboration with the Civil Aviation Authority of Brazil (ANAC), is organizing a Regional Symposium on Strategic Trends in Air Cargo, which will be held from 10 to 11 December 2013 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This two-day symposium is a comprehensive event with both informational and practical components for executives in civil aviation administrations, airlines, logistics companies, aviation training centres and for industry experts and support personnel with an interest in the trends and strategies for the air cargo market. For additional information and to register please visit:
http://www.icao.int/Meetings/Regional-Symposia/AC-SP13/Pages/default.aspx

8. PhD thesis on measuring national level logistics costs made available to FIATA members

An illuminating PhD thesis written by Karri Rantasila, of the Turku School of Economics in Finland, has been made available for free for all FIATA members. This intriguing read focuses on the design of a model to measure macro logistics costs in a global context and provides an extensive literature search of existing surveys and studies worldwide on the subject. One key finding included is that very limited, if any, direct comparability of the results across the various studies exists. For further reading visit: https://www.doria.fi/handle/10024/93317