

Summer 2011

As the festive season approaches we are all probably asking where the year has gone. Change happens as a way of life 2011 has certainly been one of challenges and change

MV Rena

The container ship MV Rena ran onto Astrolabe Reef off Tauranga in the early hours of 5th October with devastating consequences. Apart from having cargo to be shipped on the vessel from Tauranga we cleared and arranged delivery of urgent oil spill equipment from the Australian Government. Using Air NZ, Qantas, Emirates and RNZAF Hercules, in excess of 32 tonnes was flown in with such urgency that we had to clear through Customs and MAF without the benefit of documents. It was good to see that expediency overcomes red tape when the need is real.

Sadly the Rena still remains stuck fast on the reef and hopefully nature will allow the reef to return to its pre October condition.



The Rena grounding highlights aspects of shipping that have been included in previous newsletters but with this occurrence it is timely to revisit them.

Marine Insurance

The grounding and potential breakup of the MV Rena highlights the need to insure cargo. Talk to us about Marine Insurance. Those who did not insure their cargo will doubt have had many sleepless nights. Marine Insurance is not expensive and is certainly a must for all cargo.

Dangerous Goods

When the Rena grounded, Hazardous cargo was immediately identified but weeks later other DG was found to be not declared. With a ship or aircraft carrying potential explosive mixes, it is imperative that documentation is completed accurately and is available at the time of booking. Scott Farrington will assist with any DG enquiries you have.

Rates

Rates rises cause much angst but decreases over the years are perhaps reflected in the manning of vessels. The old saying that you pay peanuts and get monkeys can perhaps be

assigned to this situation. A Commission of Enquiry may show that \$\$ took over reasoned experienced judgment. As with Customs Broking, shortcuts are not the best option and local knowledge is paramount.

Port news

Auckland

Shipping through Auckland port has been affected by strike action which has seen ships divert to other ports. As with all disputes there are two sides and we always endeavour to give the best service to our clients through all manner of adversity. Although it is taking time to resolve normal service will resume. Maersk has advised they will be switching 52 calls per annum from Auckland to Tauranga. This follows their switch from New Plymouth to Tauranga in May.

Tauranga

Despite the Rena grounding the Port of Tauranga remained operational. In the early stages while containers were threatening the shipping channels helicopters were used to maintain visual safety of the channels and the Navy used sonar to detect missing containers that could pose a threat to shipping. Cargo disruption from the grounding was kept to a minimum and the port company deserves accolades for this.

Airport news

November heralded the arrival of Boeing 787 "Dreamliner" on a promotional tour. Air Zealand currently has 8 on order and this will increase the cargo capacity for importers and exporters. The 787 promises 20 per cent greater fuel efficiency, as well as fewer emissions when compared with similar sized aircraft.

Alvin and the Chipmunks

From our "unusual shipments we handled file" is the recent importation of promotional material for a new movie. Life-sized Alvin and the Chipmunks figures, crated for transport and as you can see below Alvin approved of our handling with his characteristic "Hang Loose"! Visual impact is the marketing ploy but before the marketers have their day, the Customs Broker function must be completed. Even in the promotion of a movie our skills are required.



Inco terms

Despite its importance in the International transaction, Inco terms are often the cause of blank looks or silence when raised. An important area that is too often neglected, Inco terms are set by the International Chamber of Commerce and have been an important aspect of trade since 1936. In January the 8th version was published and these can be found on our website www.fob.co.nz. As well as defining what is included in the costs, it also impacts on the amount of duty and GST payable.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you would like further explanation of these terms.

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Takes you to The Beehive, which contains the Executive wing of the New Zealand Government. For our industry this is the hive that legislates our existence and functions. Whether it is Customs, MAF, LTSA, Health, Commerce, IRD, Maritime Safety or Civil Aviation, these are some of the Government Departments who regulate us and to whom we must answer. We maintain daily contact with officials from many of these areas and need to keep up to date with all manner of Regulations and laws. With the old maxim "ignorance of the law does not excuse" we are in a constantly changing environment and must maintain up to date knowledge of statute changes and Departmental regulations to advise our clients on the many pitfalls of international trade.

Freight on Board strives to give our clients exceptional service. If you know of others who could benefit from dealing with us, please let us know so we may contact them to see how we may assist them.

Seasonal quote

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless"

Mother Teresa

With the festive season upon us we take this opportunity to thank clients and service providers, and their staff, for their loyalty and support during the year. In lieu of gifts to clients, as in previous years, we will make a Donation to the Starship Children's Hospital Foundation.

From all of us at Freight on Board (NZ) Ltd, our very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.



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