

## February 2002 International Trade News Letter

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### BDG International's Service Spotlight:

BDG International offers a complete range of logistics services: Air and Ocean. To every major port city in the world. BDG has 3 levels of air service: Express, Standard, and Differed, to meet your needs for speed and price. BDG is a licensed NVOCC with FCL and LCL services. Our Import department can provide quick customs clearance services at any customs port in the USA.

Our Export department can support your transportation needs with a full range of documentary services. Letter's of Credits to SGS inspections at our warehouse facility. Contact our office to learn more.

### European / Australian / China and Brazilian Wood Packing restrictions

As a reminder to all our customers, BDG would like to bring to your attention the official U.S.D.A. website that details the requirements for wood packing materials. As we're sure you know, Australia, China, Brazil, and the European Union have all implemented very specific requirements for wood packing materials used in shipments from the U.S.A. If these rules are not followed, shipments will be subject to delays and even possible refusal or destruction. If your shipments utilize wood as a packing material, we strongly suggest you familiarize yourself with the requirements for each destination. This website provides links to the U.S.D.A. sites for each destination mentioned above. [www.aphis.usda.gov/ppg/swp/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppg/swp/)

If you require clarification of any of the rules, or need a summary of the information contained in this website, please feel free to call BDG anytime. We are familiar with the wood packing requirements to all listed destinations, whether the freight will be moving by air or by ocean, and can assist in any way you may need. Happy shipping!

### **The Economics of Ocean Freight**

With the economy moving along at a relatively anemic pace. The ocean lines are faced with a real dilemma. Not only do they have less business but they have more capacity. Various lines spent a lot of money ordering larger vessels throughout the 90's, many of these vessels have either been recently launched or will be, increasing world-wide container capacity even further.

What does this mean for today's shipper. Fewer choices tomorrow and good rates throughout this year. Consolidation of these companies will reduce choices as the lines look for ways to save money. Rates will continue to remain low for the foreseeable future but as time goes on and economies improve we expect rates to increase. Consolidation invariably causes headaches and the occasional bankruptcy by a line can be a real nightmare for the shippers on any of the vessels affected. These vessels will look for the nearest port and discharge cargo. Imagine your shipment being off-loaded at a port nowhere near its intended destination. The costs of recovering freight caught in a bankruptcy can far exceed the initial transportation price.

Another economic factor to consider is the abundance of 40ft containers brought into the mid-west at the end of the year on import moves. Ocean lines make their money by moving freight to and from the USA. There is never an equal number of containers being imported and exported. Container disparities are common and at this time of year are particularly bad due to the imports from Christmas. Now the SS Lines want to get these containers back to overseas ports. Europe for example. In order to do this, some of the Carriers are offering discounts for freight to Felixstowe, Rotterdam, Bremerhaven and Antwerp.

Contact our office to learn more about how to take advantage of the current economic conditions in the ocean transportation industry.

## **FOOD STUFFS TO EUROPE**

Many of the European countries have become more stringent on their import of Food Stuffs to Europe. Some of the LCL carriers are requiring an Original Phyto health/sanitary certificate for any food products that are intended for human consumption. We will be able to check the requirements of the country on a particular product at the time of quoting and booking. You may also check with the USDA / FSIS.

### **International Transportation Quotation Requests**

Quotations can be requested via our web site: [www.bdginternational.com](http://www.bdginternational.com) or feel freight contact us via phone, fax, or e-mail.

BDG International is an International Freight Forwarder, NVOCC, Custom House Broker, and Duty Drawback Specialist. We provide international transportation worldwide via air or ocean. Our services include complete export/import documentation support.

We invite you to contact our offices with any questions you may have.

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