



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

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Rail, truck, and steamship firms participating in the Uniform Intermodal Interchange Agreement can swap containers and related equipment without fear of running afoul of antitrust regulations, Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar announced today.

Secretary Brinegar cited a letter from the Department of Justice which said that it does not intend to institute proceedings against participants in the Agreement.

"Removal of this potential obstacle will stimulate widespread participation in the Agreement," Secretary Brinegar said. "Participating companies will no longer have to engage in much of the costly, time-consuming, carrier-by-carrier negotiations which are the usual practice in interchange of containers."

The Justice Department's letter said that its decision not to institute proceedings against Agreement signatories was based on a review of the Agreement's content made at the request of the Department of Transportation.

The Agreement is the product of two years of intensive negotiations among rail/highway/maritime transport equipment interchange experts representing the Association of American Railroads, the Equipment Interchange Association and the Steamship Operators Intermodal Committee.

The Agreement contains operating terms and conditions for participating carriers, fixes responsibility for the maintenance, repair and cleanliness of containers and stipulates other aspects of carrier liability. It also provides for the arbitration of disputes between participating carriers.

The Office of Facilitation in the Department of Transportation and the Office of Ports and Intermodal Systems in the Maritime Administration of the Department of Commerce coordinated the many negotiating conferences which produced ultimate concurrence in the many terms and conditions set forth in the Uniform Agreement.

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