



International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)

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Resolution on the Safety of Containers in the Supply Chain Adopted on May 26, 2011 at the 27th IAPH World Ports Conference in Busan, Korea

RECOGNIZING that each mode of transport in the international supply chain is exposed to serious risks as a consequence of incorrectly stowed, overweight and incorrectly documented containerized cargo that may endanger

- Vessel safety by incorrect weight information of containers
- Port operation by overweight or unstable containers
- Road transport safety by unstable containers and may cause damage to roads by overweight containers;

NOTING that in spite of efforts made by international organizations and associations to compile and publish various guidelines(*) for safe transport of containers, these risks have not decreased;

RECOGNIZING that risks for workers participating in intermodal transport, including port operations, should be minimized as much as possible;

RECOGNIZING further that the root of this problem is the lack of knowledge and sometimes inaccurate declaration of shippers about containers at the origin of transport;

RECOGNIZING that Governments and their Agencies are the sole parties that can exercise effective control over all modes of transport in the supply chain;

On a proposal duly seconded, it is unanimously resolved that

1. IAPH requests international organizations such as ILO and IMO to adopt requirements for shippers to correctly pack and document cargo in containers including the mandatory accurate weighing at the origin of the shipment;
2. IAPH urges shippers of containers at the origin of transport to apply such requirements to ensure safety in the international supply chain;
3. IAPH further requests Governments and their Agencies to establish effective legal requirements and control mechanisms to ensure the correct application of the requirements referred to above;
4. IAPH further requests parties responsible for road infrastructure to properly designate and promptly develop when necessary, road systems for special and bulky port cargo such as heavy containers and over-sized cargoes.

(*) International guidelines on safe transport of containerized cargoes:

IMO / ILO / UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo Transport Units
ILO; Safety in the Supply Chain in relation to packing of Containers (2011)
ICS, WSC: Safe Transport of Containers by Sea (2008)