

6th February, 2014

Hamilton, Bermuda



## Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) Marine Carrier Code Application and CBSA Bond Programme – cessation of SIGCo involvement

It is with great regret that I have to announce that, for reasons beyond our control, SIGCo will no longer be able to assist its members with applying to CBSA for a Marine Carrier Code and Carrier Bond. Our involvement in this process was based on written confirmation from CBSA that SIGCo would be able to use an owner's Power of Attorney (PoA) to sign the relevant documents on their behalf. This enabled us to simplify the application process greatly and, in theory, speed it up. Since incepting the programme early in the New Year, we quickly processed and delivered the first applications to CBSA that were accepted and notified to the client. Subsequent to this, however, and for no apparent reason, CBSA has refused to accept any PoA's from the owner, thus fatally undermining the basis of our programme, which is the ability of SIGCo to sign the documents. Repeated requests for explanation for the fundamental change of position have not been satisfactorily answered and responses from CBSA continue to be inconsistent. Whilst we continue to lobby CBSA to clarify and standardize the rules, I am not hopeful of a definitive ruling in the near future, hence we have come to the reluctant conclusion that it is in our members interests that we are no longer involved in the application process. In the interim, we have been informed that, unofficially, Marine Carrier Codes used prior to the new requirements continue to be acceptable, although it is unclear how long this will be the case. Owners that have made applications through SIGCo, and those that will need to apply in the near future are encouraged to contact either Darlene Bornt or Conway Marshall at International Sureties ([dbornt@internationalsureties.com](mailto:dbornt@internationalsureties.com) and [cmarshall@internationalsureties.com](mailto:cmarshall@internationalsureties.com)), who are familiar with the CBSA programme and should be able to assist. For those that trusted SIGCo as their conduit for making the application, please accept my apologies that we have not been able to make this work. We will, of course, refund any premiums paid to SIGCo, along with any other expenses incurred in making the application through SIGCo (such as notary fees). We will begin processing the refunds soon, in the meantime please advise us of the amount of notary fees to be added to the refund for each named Carrier so that we make full payment back to the owner.

We will continue to monitor CBSA developments and in the event that we are provided with sufficient clarity and consistency of requirements, and if it is clear that we can add value to the process we will consider, once again, assisting our members. Any such announcement would be made at the appropriate time.

Best regards

Neil Clemens

President,

SIGCo