



Karen Gregory
Secretary
Federal Maritime Commission
800 N. Capitol St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20573-0001
secretary@fmc.gov

RE: Docket No. 16-05

Dear Ms. Gregory:

I am writing on behalf of Ascend Performance Materials to express our strong support for the proposed updates to rules governing service contracts as published in the Federal Register on February 29, 2016 (Docket No. 16-05). Specifically, we support the proposed change to the effective date of amendments, which would allow for amendments to be effective upon agreement of the parties with the filing occurring up to 30 days later. If finalized, this proposed rule change would provide our industry with much needed modifications to a system that no longer reflects the practical needs of maritime commerce.

As the Commission is aware, maritime commerce has become increasingly dynamic and changes can occur minute to minute. As a shipper, we need to maintain a level of nimbleness to ensure we are serving our customers' needs. The proposed rule change would allow us to make changes with the speed required in today's market environment. Since these are mutually agreed business transactions entered into between sophisticated parties, there is no reason not to give the agreements immediate effect.

We agree that the Commission should certainly have the opportunity to review the agreements for their own oversight needs, but we believe a 30-day window to file the agreements, as proposed, would satisfy the need for that review. This would allow the Commission to conduct the due diligence it is tasked with, without delaying the agreed business transactions and flow of goods.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Holcomb

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DRH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Category Manager – Logistics Procurement

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