



BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



cc: OS  
GC  
Comm(4)  
OPS  
PCL  
BTA  
BOE  
Pub

PETITION OF NATIONAL CUSTOMS BROKERS AND FORWARDERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA FOR EXEMPTION FROM MANDATORY RATE  
TARIFF PUBLICATION

DOCKET NO. P1-08

VERIFIED SUPPORTING STATEMENT OF O.T.S. ASTRACON LLC

I am Pam Wright, Ocean Export Manager for O.T.S. Astracon LLC. O.T.S. Astracon LLC is a Freight Forwarder and an NVOCC holding license number 14867NF . Our corporate office is in Charlotte NC and we have a branch office in Atlanta, GA. We have a large network of partners all over the world.

We previously submitted a verified statement in support of NCBFAA's petition on August 28, 2008.

We are a member of the NCBFAA and are very familiar with the issues relating to the requirements of mandatory publication of ocean rate tariffs and we are supporting the Association's petition to exempt NVOCCs from having to memorialize rates that have been negotiated with shippers in rate tariffs. The current economical situation requiring granting exemption is more important today than it was in 2008 due to the ever changing carrier rates. Even for our service contracts, the GRI's, surcharges, BAF's , CAF's, etc are constantly increasing and require us to file rate adjustments for each different size equipment we handle.

Upon a request from a potential customer or one of our partners, we gather either LCL or FCL quotes from various steamship lines and Co-loaders depending on the request. We then put together various quotes, offering different services such as transit times, different routings, etc. All of this is done via email and everything is documented for each individual file. Our customers/partners are satisfied with this arrangement and we have not had any arguments on this. Once the customer/partner has agreed to one of our offers and requests that we book the shipment for them, we publish the established rate in our tariff. We do have some service contracts, however, the rates are changing so often and we move much of our freight on bullet rates, it is difficult to keep up with these contracts and making sure every filing in our tariff is updated.

**In a typical year, we serve approximately 40-45 shippers and/or agents and many different commodities. The NVOCC Service Agreements have not provided any relief from the burden and expense of tariff filing thus there is no costs savings on this issue. The rates still have to be filed in our tariff. We employ a tariff-publishing agent for this purpose. We pay a yearly website hosting fee which is \$450.00 plus database fee, publishing fees, commodity description fees, increasing or decreasing rate fees, etc. We have access to the agent's website where we input the request with all details and receive an email back from them once they have received the request. Our average yearly costs for this service is approximately \$2000.00 and keeps rising now due to the constant increases in freight costs and thus the constant updating of tariff rates.**

**We feel that the rate tariffs do not serve any useful purpose and have never been Reviewed by anyone.**

**I, Pam Wright, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this verified statement.**

**EXECUTED ON JANUARY 11, 2010**

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**PAM WRIGHT  
OCEAN EXPORT MANAGER**

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FMC OTI 14867NF – Member of O.T.S. Group