

support mechanism. The Form 466/468 packet informs the Rural Healthcare Division (RHCD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company that the health care provider has entered into an agreement with a telecommunications carrier for a service believed eligible for universal service support. Those entities that have applied for support for Funding Year 2001 (July 1, 2001—June 30, 2002) must have their completed packet postmarked by October 11, 2002.

The completed FCC Form 466/468 packet must include the following:

(1) FCC Form 466 (Services Ordered and Certification Form), completed by the health care provider;

(2) FCC Form 468 (Telecommunications Service Providers Support Form), completed by the telecommunications carrier;

(3) contract document or tariff designation, provided by either the health care provider or telecommunications carrier, and,

(4) if the health care provider is seeking support based on an urban/rural rate comparison, documentation must be included to show the rate for the selected service(s) in the nearest city of 50,000 or more within the state.

The forms and accompanying instructions may be obtained at the RHCD Web site <<http://www.rhc.universalservice.org/forms>> (they are called Funding Year 4 forms, because Funding Year 2001 was the fourth year of the program). Parties with questions or in need of assistance with the filing of their applications should contact RHCD's Customer Service Support Center at 1-800-229-5476.

Federal Communications Commission.

Mark G. Seifert,

Deputy Division Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[FCC 02-277]

Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility and Integrity of Disseminated Information

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) has published its Information Quality Guidelines on its Internet web site. The

guidelines were developed pursuant to the requirements of the Data Quality Act, Section 515 of Public Law No. 105-554, and the implementing rules of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility and Integrity of Information Disseminated by Federal Agencies, 67 FR 8452, February 22, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Karen Wheelless, Office of Managing Director, 202-418-2910, or by e-mail to kwheelless@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554) directed OMB to issue government-wide guidelines that "provide policy and procedural guidance to Federal agencies for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility and integrity of information (including statistical information) disseminated by Federal agencies." The OMB guidelines required each agency to make a draft of its guidelines available for public review by May 1, 2002. Revised drafts were provided to OMB for review by August 1, 2002. Final guidelines were to be available on an agency's Internet site by October 1, 2002. The Guidelines can be found at <http://www.fcc.gov/omd/dataquality>. Information on how to file a complaint regarding an information dissemination product covered by these guidelines can also be found at the same location.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,

Secretary.

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FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Petition No. P2-02]

Petition of the South Florida NVOCC-NAOCC Association, Inc. for an Investigation of the Service Contracting and Rating Practices of the Caribbean Shipowners Association; Notice of Filing and Request for Comments

Notice is hereby given that, by petition filed October 8, 2002, the South Florida NVOCC-NAOCC Association, Inc. ("Petitioner") has petitioned the Commission for an investigation under section 11(c) of the Shipping Act of 1984 ("Shipping Act") of certain activities by the members of the Caribbean Shipowners Association ("CSA").

In particular, Petitioner requests the Commission to determine whether CSA's members have violated the Shipping Act through discriminatory service contracting and rating practices in the Caribbean trades that intentionally discriminate against Ocean Transportation Intermediaries ("OTIs") in violation of sections 10(c)(1), 10(c)(3), 10(c)(7) and 10(c)(8) of the Shipping Act. Petitioner contends that these practices reduce competition in the involved trades and produce unreasonable reductions in transportation service and unreasonable increases in transportation cost to OTIs, their shippers and the shipping public within the meaning of section 6(g) of the Shipping Act. Petitioner further alleges that CSA and its members may be in violation of section 5(c) of the Shipping Act by either adopting mandatory agreements relating to OTI rates and services or failing to file true copies of their voluntary guidelines thereon with the Commission. Petitioner finally alleges that, in taking these actions, CSA is operating in violation of its agreement and is therefore also in violation of section 10(c)(3) of the Shipping Act.

In support of these contentions, Petitioner claims that Non-Vessel-Operating common carrier OTIs ("NVOs") depend upon CSA members to transport their shipments, approximately 90% of which move under service contracts. On or about July 1, 2002, CSA members announced a selective rate increase plan targeting service contract and tariff rates for the commodity descriptions almost exclusively used by NVOs for consolidated containers of less than container load ("LCL") cargo: Freight All Kinds ("FAK") and General Department Store Merchandise ("GDSM"). Petitioner states that the increases were substantial (from 10% to 40%); however, CSA purportedly did not take across-the-board increases for any other commodities or categories of shippers. Petitioner asserts that CSA's members' service contract offers to NVOs have eliminated all commodity rates other than FAK and GDSM, thereby depriving NVOs of a rate basis on which to compete for full container load ("FCL"), single commodity shipments. Petitioner further alleges that, at the same time, a wholly-owned NVO subsidiary of CSA member Tropical Shipping and Construction Co., Ltd. ("Tropical") (described by Petitioner as the largest vessel-operating carrier in most of the involved markets and virtually the only CSA member competing in the LCL market) reduced its LCL rates. Petitioner argues the