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## TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

**Federal Maritime Commission Seeks Comments on Slow Steaming**

On February 7, 2011, the Federal Maritime Commission (“Commission”) published in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) soliciting comments on the impact of slow steaming on U.S. ocean liner commerce. Comments should address how slow steaming has impacted ocean liner carrier operations and shippers’ international supply chains, affected the cost and/or price of ocean liner service, and mitigated greenhouse gas emissions. The deadline for submitting comments is April 5, 2011. The Commission will accept confidential submissions.

Most ocean liner carriers now engage in the practice of slow steaming, whereby ships operate at slower than normal speeds to reduce fuel consumption, as a cost-saving measure in light of reduced international trade. Limited information exists about the impact of this practice on U.S. shippers, including whether carriers have passed on the cost savings. Further, additional information is needed regarding the effect of slow steaming on ship emissions.

For additional details, including the lists of questions the Commission has directed to certain interest groups, such as shippers, carriers, and individuals with rate agreements that establish a bunker surcharge guideline, see the **full text of the NOI**.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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