



# MARAD FACT SHEET

## Cargo Handling Cooperative Program



**America's Advocate for the Maritime Industry**

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**Strategic Objective:** To increase the productivity of marine freight transportation companies through cargo handling research and development. The CHCP conceived as a public-private partnership, works to foster research and technology development among U.S. intermodal companies. The members actively pursue innovative cargo handling development to increase productivity and cost effectiveness of cargo operations.



### Vision

Provide leading-edge cargo handling solutions that support a sustainable and seamless transportation system.

### Mission

Actively pursue industry-driven enhancements to cargo handling that increase productivity to improve customer service by, addressing solutions to cargo handling systems and design, addressing the development and application of innovative technologies, seek ways to increase productivity, and support national defense transportation requirements.

### Background

Since its inception in 1983, the primary goal of the Cargo Handling Cooperative Program (CHCP) has been to increase the productivity of marine freight transportation companies through cargo handling research and development. The CHCP, conceived as a public-private partnership, was designed to foster research and technology development among U.S.-flag ocean carriers. The membership actively pursued innovative cargo handling developments to increase the productivity and cost effectiveness of cargo operations.

**Initiatives****Electronic Seal**

Completed a scientific research project involving the evaluation of radio frequency identification tags for use as seals on containers to improve security of cargo. The project involved testing several commercially available electronic seals in a laboratory and a terminal environment to determine how closely they met manufacturer specifications.

**Chassis Tags**

Conducted the first scientific review to determine the optimal location for placing radio frequency tags on container chassis to achieve maximum read capability. The project involved testing commercially available tags in a laboratory and a terminal environment to determine how closely they met manufacturer specifications and under which field conditions they worked best.

**Optical Character Recognition**

Sponsored a project to use a computerized system to optically recognize containers and chassis into and out of marine terminals. This type of system is now in use at several terminals across the U.S.

**Standards Development**

The CHCP assisted in two standards-development efforts for automatic equipment identification. As the leader of one effort, the program developed the standard for Automatic Identification of Freight Containers (ISO 10374).

**Equipment Location System**

Showed that a mobile inventory vehicle could accurately identify and locate containers and chassis to within one slot of their true positions 99.4 percent of the time.

**Membership**

Membership in the CHCP consists of U.S. owned and based companies, organizations or government bodies involved in ownership or movement of ocean/marine containers or bulk items.

- 1) Ocean Carriers
- 2) Railroads
- 3) Port Authorities
- 4) Terminal Operators/Stevedores
- 5) Trucking Companies
- 6) Government Organizations
- 7) Associate Members