



# TRADE LOGISTICS

*YOUR KEY TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE*



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## The Role of the Chamber of Commerce

## The Role of the Chamber of Commerce:

The CoC is like a worldwide government for businesses with a head office in Paris (ICC) and branches all over the world to facilitate business in a standard way, good standards. It would be like appointing a referee between business transactions. The Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JCCL) was the first of its kind in Africa, started on the 1st April 1890.

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) was founded in 1919 with an overriding aim that remains unchanged, and that is to serve world business by promoting trade and investment. The ICC has evolved beyond the early post-war days when business leaders from the allied nations met for the first time in Atlantic City. From the first time with only Britain, USA, Belgium, France and Italy, too now more than 130 countries and thousands of members.


### **Ensuring Honest Business Standards are kept**

With international trade it is more difficult to know which companies are good and which are bad. A bad company is not going to belong to the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce runs on one rule, "if the company is caught out, they get kicked out", bad business people don't like to get the lights thrown onto themselves. To get "black listed" by the CoC, would be a difficult one to recover from. If you wanted to minimize your risks in business, then the CoC of a country is the first place to start.

Likewise if your company is a member of your local CoC you have international credibility.

### **Assistance is finding trade partners**

Each economical region would have a CoC. If you are looking locally or internationally as a buyer you could ask any CoC in the world to inform their members that you are looking to buy a particular product. They will pass that information onto their members to contact you.



Similarly for sellers, you could contact any CoC in the world and ask them to send your information as the contact person selling a product. The CoC can even set up meetings between you and their members that are interested.

### Setting rules and standards

The ICC is responsible for setting the following rules and standards:

**Incoterms** are standard international trade definitions used in trade contracts. The ICC model contracts makes life easier for all that use it. The buyer and seller know what is expected from each party to the contract.

**UCP600** is the ICC's Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits. The banks apply them to finance cargo throughout the world.

**Certificate of origin** the individual chambers may issue these certificates in accordance with the ICC's rules to verify origin of goods for it's members.

**International Court of Arbitration** received over 500 new cases a year for arbitration.

**Services Bureaus:** In the early 1980's, ICC set up three London-based services to combat commercial crime.

- 1) The International Maritime Bureau, dealing with all types of maritime crime.
- 2) The Counterfeiting Intelligence Bureau
- 3) the Commercial Crime Bureau
- 4) In 1998 a cybercrime unit was added. The ICC Commercial Crime Services, coordinates the activities of the specialized anti-crime services.

**SACOB :** the South African Chamber of Business is affiliated to the ICC in Paris.

The ICC are also the main business partner of the United Nations. They provide world business recommendations to the WTO World Trade Organization.



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