

forwarder, NVOCC) that is related to an ocean common carrier serving the U.S. trades; and

3. Holding itself out to be a multi-modal logistics maritime transportation provider and historically compliant with U.S. regulations as administered by the Federal Maritime Commission prior to applying to qualify for the right to offer service contracts.

Petitioner asserts that allowing NVOCCs that meet these criteria to enter confidential service contracts without an individual exemption will set a standard that will allow the Commission to continue appropriate regulation and oversight of the NVOCC trade, and provide the Commission and the public with the confidence that only qualified companies are granted this privilege.

In order for the Commission to make a thorough evaluation of the Petition, interested persons are requested to submit views or arguments in reply to the petition no later than October 10, 2003. Replies shall consist of an original and 15 copies, be directed to the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol Street NW., Washington, DC 20573-0001, and be served on Petitioner's counsel Edward J. Sheppard, Esq., Thompson Coburn LLP, 1909 K Street, NW., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006. It is also requested that a copy of the reply be submitted in electronic form (WordPerfect, Word or ASCII) on diskette or e-mailed to [Secretary@fmc.gov](mailto:Secretary@fmc.gov). The Petition will be posted on the Commission's Home Page at <http://www.fmc.gov/Docket%20Log/Docket%20Log%20Index.htm>. All replies filed in response to the Petition will also be posted on the Commission's Home Page at this location.<sup>1</sup> Copies of the Petition also may be obtained by sending a request to the Office of the Secretary, Room 1046, or by calling (202) 523-5725. Parties participating in this proceeding may elect to receive service of the Commission's issuances in this proceeding through e-mail in lieu of service by U.S. mail. A party opting for electronic service shall advise the Office of the Secretary in writing and provide an e-mail address where service can be made. Such request should be directed to [secretary@fmc.gov](mailto:secretary@fmc.gov).

**Bryant L. VanBrakle,**  
Secretary.

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<sup>1</sup> Copies of replies to Petition Nos. P3-03, P5-03, P7-03, and P9-03 are also available on the Commission's homepage at the address listed above.

## FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Petition No. P9-03]

### **Petition of C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc. for Exemption Pursuant to Section 16 of the Shipping Act of 1984 to Permit Negotiation, Entry and Performance of Confidential Service Contracts; Notice of Filing**

Notice is hereby given that C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc. ("Petitioner") has petitioned, pursuant to Section 16 of the Shipping Act of 1984, 46 U.S.C. app. 1715, and 46 CFR 502.67, for an exemption from the Shipping Act, to permit it to negotiate, enter into and perform service contracts.

In order for the Commission to make a thorough evaluation of the Petition, interested persons are requested to submit views or arguments in reply to the petition no later than October 10, 2003. Replies shall consist of an original and 15 copies, be directed to the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol Street NW., Washington, DC 20573-0001, and be served on Petitioner's counsel Carlos Rodriguez, Esq., Rodriguez O'Donnell Ross, Fuerst Gonzalez & Williams, P.C., 1211 Connecticut Ave. NW., Suite 800 Washington, DC 20036. It is also requested that a copy of the reply be submitted in electronic form (WordPerfect, Word or ASCII) on diskette or emailed to [Secretary@fmc.gov](mailto:Secretary@fmc.gov). The Petition will be posted on the Commission's Home page at <http://www.fmc.gov/Docket%20Log/Docket%20Log%20Index.htm>. All replies filed in response to the Petition will also be posted on the Commission's homepage at this location.<sup>1</sup> Copies of the Petition also may be obtained by sending a request to the Office of the Secretary, Room 1046, or by calling (202) 523-5725. Parties participating in this proceeding may elect to receive service of the Commission's issuances in this proceeding through email in lieu of service by U.S. mail. A party opting for electronic service shall advise the Office of the Secretary in writing and provide an e-mail address where service can be made. Such request should be directed to [secretary@fmc.gov](mailto:secretary@fmc.gov).

**Bryant L. VanBrakle,**  
Secretary.

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<sup>1</sup> Copies of replies to Petition Nos. P3-03, P5-03, P7-03, and P8-03 are also available on the Commission's homepage at the address listed above.

## FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Petition No. P5-03]

### **Petition of National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America, Inc. for Limited Exemption from Certain Tariff Requirements of the Shipping Act of 1984; Extension of Time**

Notice is hereby given that the Commission has determined to extend the due date for comments in reply to Petition No. P5-03 until October 10, 2003.

**Bryant L. VanBrakle,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-24185 Filed 9-22-03; 8:45 am]

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## FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Petition No. P7-03]

### **Petition of Ocean World Lines, Inc., for a Rulemaking To Amend and Expand the Definition and Scope of "Special Contracts" To Include All Ocean Transportation Intermediaries; Notice of Filing**

Notice is hereby given that Ocean World Lines, Inc. ("Petitioner") has petitioned for the issuance of a rulemaking pursuant to 46 CFR 502.51. Petitioner seeks a rulemaking to address and evaluate the impact of the Commission's rules governing Ocean Transportation Intermediaries ("OTIs"). Specifically, Petitioner seeks a rulemaking that would expand the definition and scope of the term "special contracts" to include all OTIs in the same manner as currently applied to ocean freight forwarders (46 CFR 515.41(c)). Petitioner advises that it filed its Petition in response to petitions P3-03, Petition of United Parcel Service, Inc. for Exemption Pursuant to Section 16 of the Shipping Act of 1984 to Permit Negotiation, Entry and Performance of Service Contracts, and P5-03, Petition of National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America, Inc., for Limited Exemption from Certain Tariff Requirements of the Shipping Act of 1984. Petitioner asserts that its Petition will

Provide the Commission with the regulatory ability to act on the issue of shielding some non-vessel-operating common carrier ("NVOCC") rates even if it determines that its statutory exemption authority does not extend to those elements of the statutory regime that Congress addressed directly in the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998; and in so doing, provide NVOCCs with the ability to enter into rate agreements that are shielded from public