

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 24, 2006

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**AWO RESPONSIBLE CARRIER PROGRAM SIGNS
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH
ACC'S RESPONSIBLE CARE® PROGRAM***MOA will combine two performance improvement programs
saving time and money while promoting safety*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The American Waterways Operators (AWO) and American Chemistry Council (ACC) today entered into a Memo of Agreement (MOA) to allow Responsible Care® Partner companies in ACC's Marine (Barge) sector to achieve ACC Responsible Care® certification concurrently with their AWO Responsible Carrier Program (RCP) certification.

This type of agreement has special benefit for companies that belong to AWO and ACC and participate in both the RCP and Responsible Care®. Instead of having to go through another third-party audit to achieve ACC Responsible Care® certification, these companies, by completing a Responsible Care® addendum, can achieve certification in both programs with one audit.

In 2004, ACC and AWO staff, along with company representatives from AWO membership and the ACC Responsible Care Partnership Marine/Barge sector, began to examine the auditing requirements of Responsible Care and Responsible Carrier, the AWO's health, safety and environment initiative. A gap analysis tool was subsequently designed and an MOA created.

Providing a streamlined process for companies to achieve certification under both the AWO Responsible Carrier Program and ACC Responsible Care® will encourage additional AWO members to consider participating in ACC's program, contributing to an increased level of safety and environmental protection throughout the industry.

AWO President and CEO Thomas Allegretti stated, "By recognizing areas of consistency and overlap between AWO's Responsible Carrier Program audits and ACC's Responsible Care management system audits, we hope to reduce resource requirements, create the best value for participants and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of both programs."

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The American Waterways Operators

"ACC and the AWO share an exciting opportunity to further our common commitment to safe and environmentally-sound product stewardship," said ACC President and CEO Jack Gerard. We expect the efficiencies gained in this partnership with AWO to result in continued improvement in safety performance and cost savings among our members and Responsible Care Partners."

The AWO Responsible Carrier Program is an award-winning, Coast Guard-recognized safety code of practice designed for the tugboat, towboat and barge industry that encompasses every aspect of fleet operations, including company management and administration, vessel equipment and inspection, and human factors. All AWO member companies must commit to third-party audited compliance with the RCP as a condition of membership. The ACC Responsible Care® program is a global chemical industry performance initiative verified through independent auditors that helps America's leading chemical companies go above and beyond government requirements and track performance through established environment, health, safety and security measures. Participation in Responsible Care® is mandatory for ACC member companies.

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The American Waterways Operators (AWO) is the national trade association for the inland and coastal tugboat, towboat, and barge industry. AWO's members operate on the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf Coasts of the United States; throughout the full range of our nation's 25,000-mile inland and intracoastal waterway system; and in our inland and coastal ports and harbors.