

NCBFAA NVOCC Day Agenda, January 22, 2026

Port of New Orleans Auditorium, 1350 Port of New Orleans Place, New Orleans, LA 70130

(Please plan to arrive early to allow adequate time for parking. The seminar will begin promptly at 10:00AM)

10:00 AM – 10:10 AM: Opening Remarks

Pledge of Allegiance followed by antitrust reminder and introductions.

Presented by: Rich Roche, NCBFAA NVOCC Subcommittee Chair

10:10 AM – 11:00 AM: NVOCC Liabilities & Common Errors (Legal)

This session will provide an overview of the key legal liabilities faced by NVOCCs, common mistakes to avoid, and practical strategies for mitigating compliance risks. Topics will include the critical differences in risk exposure when using an agent's house bill of lading versus your own, even when listed as the consignee on the master bill of lading. The discussion will also address FMC record-keeping obligations, including requirements for pre-alerts and arrival notices. Additionally, the session will cover potential pitfalls such as inadequate carrier vetting, insufficient cargo insurance, and misunderstandings of international trade regulations. Participants will gain valuable insights into navigating these challenges to ensure compliant and efficient operations.

Speaker: Ashley Craig, Venable LLP

11:00 AM – 11:50 AM: Agent Vetting & Agency Agreements

Practical guidance on selecting and vetting reliable agents, structuring effective agency agreements, and ensuring compliance with industry standards will be provided during this session. It will cover best practices for mitigating liability in agency relationships, emphasizing that simply confirming an agent's registration or license is not sufficient. Comprehensive vetting should also include reviewing the agent's Rules Tariff and the terms and conditions of their house bills of lading. The discussion will address common risks in agency relationships, such as miscommunication, conflicting interests, and lack of transparency, while offering strategies to establish clear, enforceable agreements that protect your interests.

Speakers: Ashley Craig, Venable LLP and Rich Roche, NCBFAA NVOCC Subcommittee Chair

11:50 AM – 12:40 PM: Co-Loading – Key Considerations & Best Practices

This session will explore co-loading, including its definition in FMC's regulations, key responsibilities, and best practices. Topics will cover managing multi-layer NVO relationships, notating underlying NVO on the bill of lading, and assessing risk exposure when using master BLs without corresponding house BLs. Participants will learn how to effectively work with both licensed and unlicensed agents, understanding the limitations and regulatory requirements when working with each. Practical examples and case studies will be used to illustrate successful co-loading practices, helping attendees navigate the complexities and legal considerations of these arrangements.

Speakers: Liz Lowe, Venable LLP and Melzie Wilson, Global Zolutions

12:40 PM – 1:10 PM: Lunch Break

1:10 PM – 2:00 PM: OSRA 22 and 24 Rulemakings – Leveraging Changes to Your Advantage

This session will cover the latest updates in the Ocean Shipping Reform Act (OSRA) 2022 and 2024 rulemakings and examine their implications for NVOCCs. OSRA 2022 introduced significant changes aimed at promoting fairness and efficiency in the shipping industry, including new provisions for detention and demurrage billing,

and guidelines for bringing Refusal to Deal or Negotiate claims. OSRA 2024 builds on these reforms with additional measures to streamline regulatory compliance and further protect shippers' interests. Speakers will discuss how these regulatory changes impact day-to-day operations, the importance of adhering to the new billing requirements, and strategies for leveraging these updates to the advantage of an NVOCC. The session will also highlight best practices and offer practical tips for navigating the new regulatory landscape.

Speakers: *Liz Lowe, Venable LLP, and Melzie Wilson, Global Zolutions*

2:00 PM – 2:10 PM: Break

2:10 PM – 3:00 PM: Rules Tariffs – What NVOCCs Should Know

A practical session covering essential elements of NVOCC Rules Tariffs, which serve as a living document foundational to NVOCC's business operations. This session will address creating Rules Tariffs that can be read and understood by a company's employees and business partners involved in ocean transportation. The discussion will highlight mandatory inclusions versus recommended elements to promote both compliance and operational efficiency. Attendees will gain insights into best practices for maintaining and updating Rules Tariffs, as well as tips for fostering awareness and understanding within their organizations.

Speakers: *Melzie Wilson, Global Zolutions and Ashley Craig, Venable LLP*

3:00 PM – 3:50 PM: NRAs & NSAs – Strategic Use & Compliance

A comprehensive overview of NRAs and NSAs, emphasizing their strategic advantages and best practices for maintaining compliance will be provided. Attendees will gain insights into the risks of relying solely on traditional rate filings and how leveraging NRAs can reduce compliance exposure, enhance competitive positioning, and improve operational efficiencies. The discussion will include practical guidance and real-world examples, highlighting common pitfalls and effective strategies for implementing NRAs and NSAs in line with regulatory requirements.

Speaker: *Rich Roche, NCBFAA NVOCC Subcommittee Chair and Liz Lowe, Venable LLP*

3:50 PM – 4:00 PM: Closing Remarks by Ashley Craig, Venable LLP

Reception to follow, sponsored by the New Orleans Terminal LLC: Details will be added prior to the event.

Friday January 23,

11AM-1 Lunch & Learn at the Port

Sponsored by the International Freight Forwarders & Customs Brokers Association of New Orleans. Limited availability. Separate RSVP required. RSVP to Megan Montgomery; mmontgomery@ncbfaa.org

2:30PM: Round Table for NVOCC Day Participants at Embassy Suites by Hilton New Orleans, 315 Julia Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130 USA

