# *Contship Transhipment System Description*

Contship Asia Pte. Ltd is a multinational Shipping company that operates a network of container transportation services on major international trade routes. Contship provides container transportation in the Trans-Pacific, Asia-Europe, Trans-Atlantic, Latin America, Intra-Asia and Australia markets.

The Transhipment System helps Contship processes containers loaded on several Asian ports served by its agents to ship into its Singapore hub which are then transhipped to other international ports.

Agents of Contship Asia Pte Ltd. (located in other Far East Asian countries or direct booking done by Contship) book containers to be shipped to their respective international destinations. These containers are loaded on vessels, known as feeder vessels. All feeder vessels converge at Singapore where the containers are transhiped from these vessels to mother vessels. It is the mother vessel that then ships the containers to their respective destinations.

The regional agents send to Contship (for every voyage number) two reports, namely, the booking report and the container report. The local agent also sends similar two reports though in a different format. The booking report highlights the firm orders that the agent has booked for the month. The container report is a detailed version of the firm orders that the agent has received. This report spells out the container numbers, sizes, weights, etc. Both these reports are sent to Contship in two Excel sheets contained within one workbook of an Excel file.

The main objective of the Transhipment System is to

➢ Import the agents' reports and register them in ACCESS tables. Only reports for voyages that have been earlier scheduled are imported. The agents' reports are to be validated prior to registration
➢ Schedule a list of voyages that are set to depart during the current year
➢ Maintain a list of master data for the purpose of validation of agents' reports
➢ Enter the departure date of the vessels after they have departed
➢ Generate the different reports

The Transhipment System is a multi-user system allowing several users to operate simultaneously.

For a multi user system, the hardware and software system requirements to run Transhipment System are at every station:

➢ An IBM PC compatible running M S Windows (Windows 3.11 or later versions like Windows 95 or Windows NT)
➢ Intel 80486 or above processor-based computer system
➢ System memory of 16Mb
➢ LAN Card for LAN connectivity
➢ MS Excel 8.0 and above (preferably)

The Transshipment System has been tested with Windows NT and Novell 4.0 as the network software and either one can be used as the supported network software.

**Business Results Achieved**:

To know what containers should be loaded from feeder vessels into the mother vessels, Contship requires clear instructions of container nos and what is to be loaded from which feeder vessel into which mother vessel. In this respect,

Where previously all agents were sending in their requirements verbally and via fax, the Excel sheet specification required agents to prepare their instructions of what container nos to load from which feeder vessel into which mother vessel. In this respect, the system helped Contship in 2 ways:

Using a standard Excel sheet specification, the system helped overcome a challenge of standardizing communication between all South East Asian regional agents (who spoke different languages) and Contship Singapore.

2ndly, this provided a means whereby Contship could directly input data into the Transhipment System. This direct input process helped cut down several steps in processing raw data in a format readily readable by the system.

Once data was written into the system, several important detail and summary Excel based reports could be generated. Since all reports were output in Excel format, they could be attached and sent via email.

Previously, many data entry operators and operations staff were involved in processing data in the system. The system has helped reduce dependence on data entry operator and currently operations staff are involved in running the Transhipment System