

Booking containers on-line at the Manila International Container Terminal

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Philippine-based port operator, International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI), rolled out a new e-commerce service that allows the paperless booking of full export containers at the company's flagship, Manila International Container Terminal (MICT). The system, known as Web Booking, is an intranet/ internet-based application intended to make business transactions at the terminal more efficient. Web Booking is a complementary feature of MICT's new gate system and is easily accessible at the terminal's e-commerce facility, MICT iBox, which can be accessed via MICT's website, www.mictweb.com.

The new gate system and web booking

Early in 2006, ICTSI constructed a new central gate at the MICT, which features truck portals with imaging cameras, automated driver transaction kiosks, weigh bridges, and radiation portal monitors. The new gate is seen to beef up the safety and security of cargo as well as the terminal premises. It was also aimed at terminal productivity and efficiency with the introduction of remote checker stations and a paperless system.

Before Web Booking, shipping line clients of MICT used the Export Container Order (ECO) for the booking of containers. A pre-gate entry procedure, the ECO is presented to the administrative check (A-check), where data is manually inputted into the booking system. After the container is

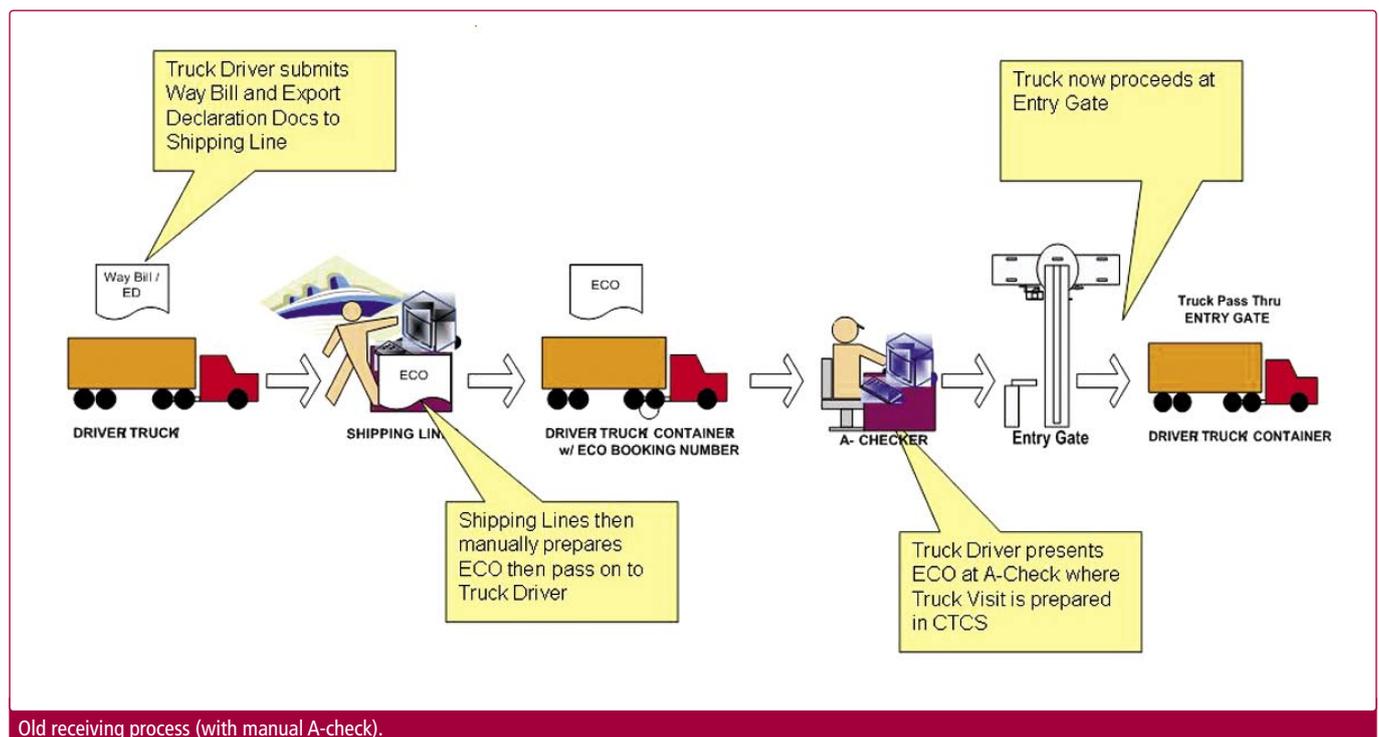
booked, only then will the container be allowed entry through the gates. At the entry, checkers conduct a manual physical inspection (P-check) of the containers before allowing the containers to proceed to the stacking yard.

The manual A-check had capably run the booking of containers for years. However, the gradual increase in export container volume at the terminal resulted in a slow down in the handling of boxes. Queuing started as more truck drivers lined up to present the ECO in A-check. Thereafter, data is manually encoded for the container booking. Also, the procedure started to be susceptible to some errors and delays as ECO data were at times, because of the manual handling, incomplete, incorrect, or even tampered with. These translated to a slower movement at the truck holding area, slowing overall container movement. With the observed scenario, the MICT found it apt to initiate an enhanced booking system, not only to accommodate increasing trade volume, but also to streamline the booking process.

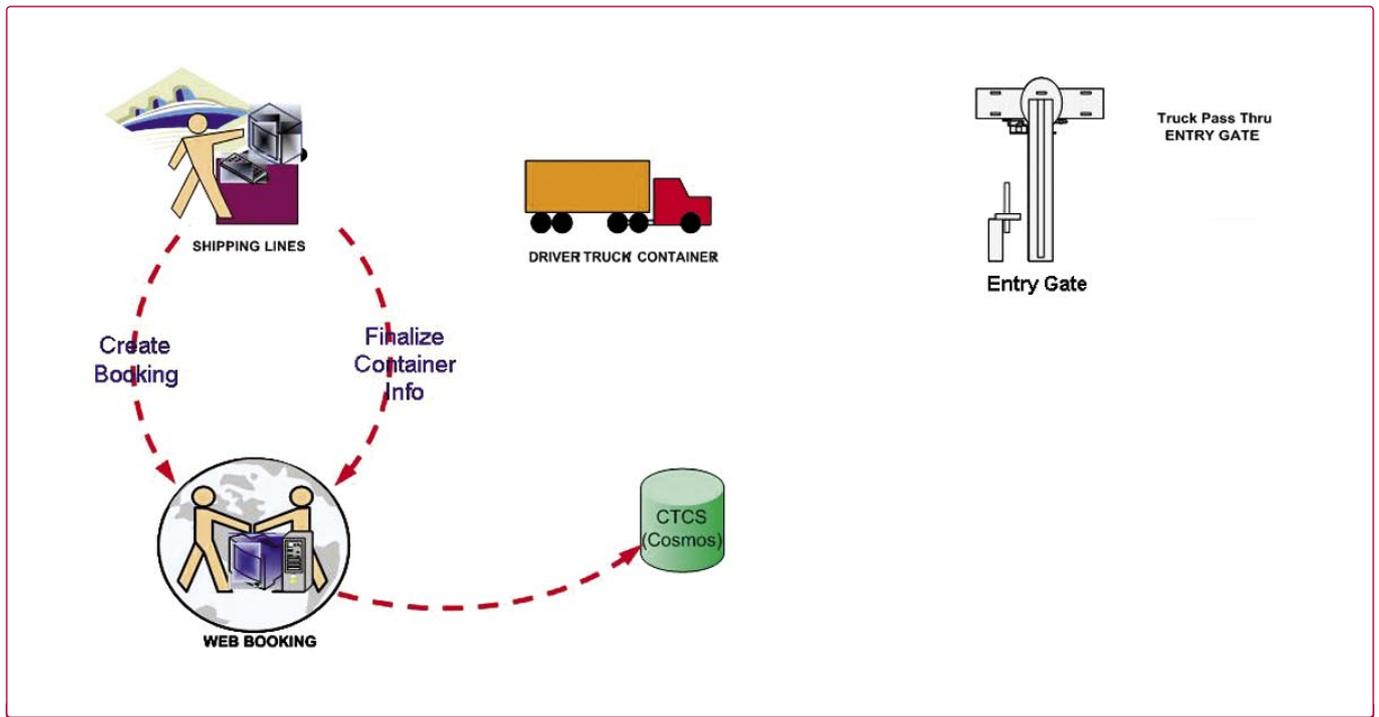
Web booking launched

Through the new system, export containers can now be booked online, in advance, by the shipping lines, thus, deviating from the sure dilemma at A-check.

Through Web Booking, shipping lines access MICT's iBox facility, create and finalise a booking, and the container is



Old receiving process (with manual A-check).

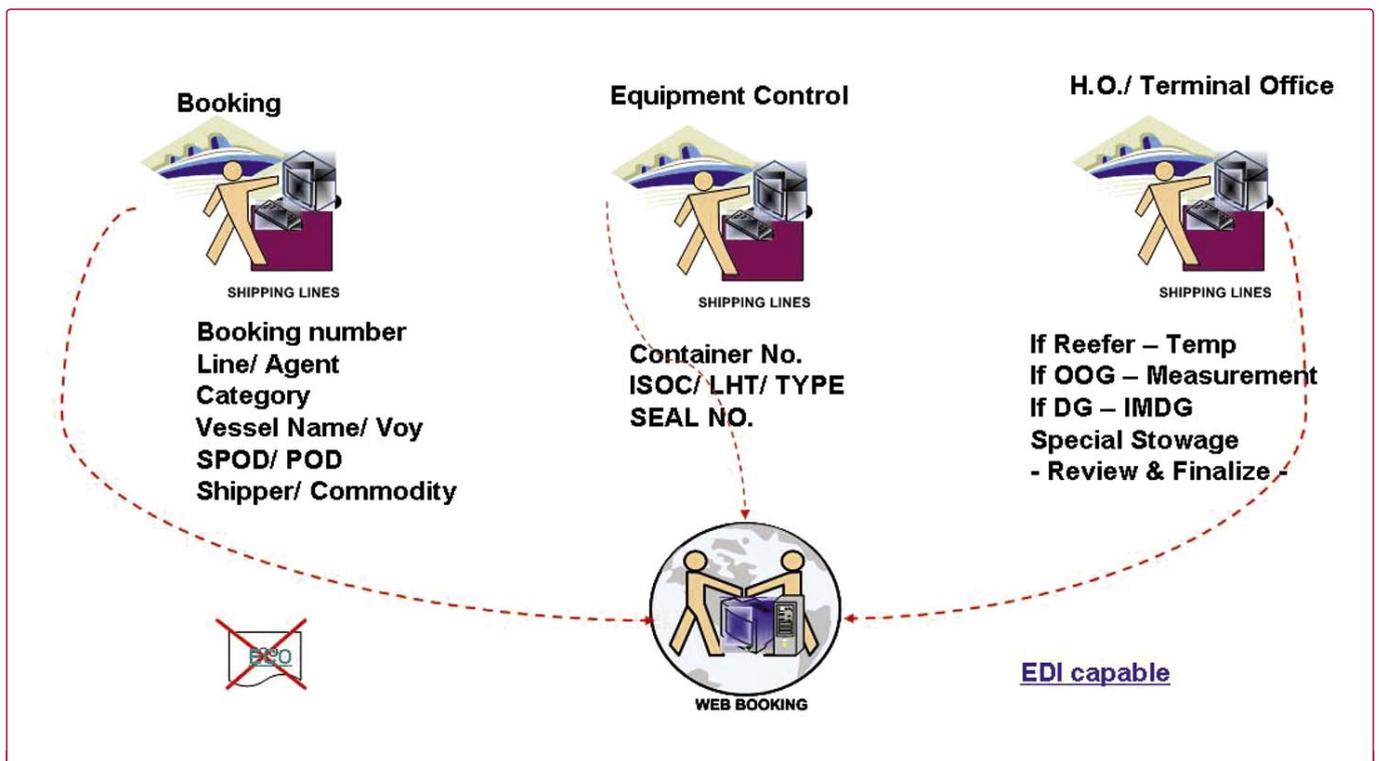


New receiving process (with Web Booking).

automatically booked. Drivers no longer need to proceed to the A-check for export containers as this step has been taken out. Instead, they go directly to the entrance gates. The P-check at the gates has also been replaced with cameras with optical character recognition (OCR) capability and radiation portal monitors (RPM) for the scanning of the containers, resulting in the faster entry of containers. With the paperless procedure, the long lines at the A-check was addressed; inconsistencies were resolved as the shipping lines themselves encode the data; while ECO tampering is easier to track as web booking users are required to log in prior to booking.

Moreover, being automated, the system easily responds to the increased container volume entering the MICT.

For major shipping lines with the capability of transacting direct computer to computer information exchanges, electronic data interchange (EDI) is also possible as the system fully supports Container Announcement Message (COPARN), a standard UN/EDIFACT message exchange implemented worldwide. This means that shipping lines no longer need to re-input existing data about the export containers on Web Booking as MICT's system is able to automatically verify the data.



Data entry distribution.

https://services.mictweb.com/IBox/

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

https://services.mictweb.com/IBox/

IBOX ICTSI-MICT

Operations

- Vessel Schedule
- Container Inventory
- Container Information
- Truck Visit Information

Billing/Payment

- CY Import
- CY Export
- CY Special Services
- Pay Invoices

Other Options

- Main
- Logout
- Choose Company
- Close

Vessel Schedule
Track inbound containers already discharged from a particular vessel, remaining containers for discharging, outbound containers already loaded, remaining containers for loading and schedule of your vessels in MICT.

Container Inventory
If you are an authorized Shipping Line representative and you want to know how many containers or overstaying containers you have in MICT.

Container Information
If you need basic container information like Arrival date, delivery date, movements, type etc., click this item.

Truck Information
If you need to trace the movements of your delivery trucks, click this item.

CY Import
This item would help you compute or actually pay online the basic inbound container charges like Arrastre, Storage, Wharfage, Reefer, Weighing etc.

CY Export
This item would help you compute or actually pay online the basic outbound container charges like Arrastre Wharfage etc.

Pay Invoices
This item would help you submit Invoice Payments on-line.

WEB_CRO
This item would help you submit the Container Release Order online.

WebBooking
This item is a facility for booking export containers in advance.

Refund on excess or double payment guide :

Transmit a request for refund to the ICTSI CY Billing Department using the following options :

E-mail the CY Billing Department : pyoung@ictsi.com, cbalais@ictsi.com or cmagat@ictsi.com
Fax the CY Billing Department : 2478021

Be sure to indicate or include the following in your request :

For Excess Payment:
ICTSI & Bank Reference numbers, Transaction Date, Amount (net of transaction fee).

Web booking is accessible at www.mictweb.com

An added feature of Web Booking is its capability to report and monitor cargo status. Thus, shipping lines can have real time updates on a cargo's status upon its entry until its exit from the MICT.

"The advent of the new gate system, and in particular the introduction of the Web Booking service, has been well received by the shipping lines. The new system has helped raise efficiency in the handling of containers and eradicated queues," says Tommy Ysip, ICTSI Systems/Process Development Manager and project head for Web Booking. "Overall, it has helped improve productivity and efficiency in the terminal," he adds.

The MICT is currently studying the possible inclusion of empty export containers and import containers in Web Booking. "The most ideal situation is to have all containers that pass through the MICT booked prior to entry at the terminal. With innovation being among the thrusts of the company, we'll surely look into that," adds Mr. Ysip.

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

Since its takeover of the MICT in 1988, ICTSI has introduced infrastructure, equipment, system, and human resource upgrading at the terminal. ICTSI has transformed the MICT from an underdeveloped, poorly run terminal to the container port it is today – the most modern and largest container terminal in the Philippines at par with the world's best.

Aside from MICT, ICTSI also operates four other terminals in the Philippines and seven overseas. Philippine operations include the NSD Terminal in the Subic Bay Freeport, Bauan Terminal in Batangas, Makar Wharf in Gen. Santos City, and the Sasa Wharf in Davao City. Foreign operations include the Suape Container Terminal in Brazil, Baltic Container Terminal in Poland, Madagascar International Container Terminal in Madagascar, Naha International Container Terminal in Japan, Makassar Container Terminal in Indonesia, Tartous International Container Terminal in Syria, and Yantai Gangtong Container Terminal in China. The company recently won the bid to operate the Port of Guayaquil in Ecuador.

ENQUIRIES

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