



# Member Advisory 02-1

## Signing of Hold Harmless Agreements

Americas Committee  
International Federation of Inspection Agencies

**January 2002**

From time to time, third party inspection companies may encounter situations in which a terminal (or ship/barge owner), as a condition to entering (or boarding) their premises to conduct independent inspections, require an individual inspector to sign a hold harmless agreement, which constitutes a waiver of the individual inspector's legal rights against the terminal (or ship/barge owner).

The position of the member companies of the Americas Committee of the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA AC) on this requirement is no different from that of any other employer; that is, they will not ask any of their inspectors to waive their rights as individuals or employees under the law. Further, as individual inspection companies, they will not offer an indemnity to a third party for access to their mutual client's product.

IFIA member companies provide health & safety training, personal protection equipment and Workers Compensation coverage for their employees, and they are committed to providing a safe workplace when it is within their control. Member companies must rely upon terminals (or ship/barge owners) to provide safe working conditions for their employees, and feel that waiver of legal rights letters and indemnity requirements are an inappropriate avoidance of responsibility.

For additional information on this advisory or any other services of the IFIA AC, please contact their Executive Director, Milton M. Bush, JD, CAE at the coordinates listed below.