

Table 2

Issues Relating to Rates and Tariffs

Issues	Main points	Questions
Open rates	.SCEA is not definitive regarding open rates .conference filing of open rates is not required	.definition of open rates and status under SCEA? .should open rates be filed? .if open rates are not filed, are exemptions still valid? .are open-rate conferences still conferences? .how to revise SCEA to include open rates?
General Rate Increase (GRI)	.subject of continuous confrontation .multiple GRIs in one year concern shippers	.can a formula be found to limit number of GRIs? .can an international forum be found to discuss GRIs? .proof of requirements, use of independent auditor on voluntary basis?
Surcharges	.ongoing concern for shippers .bunker surcharges during Gulf War latest example	.are surcharges yet another form of GRI? .should there be a regulation for surcharges?
Independent Action (I/A) on service contracts	.at present no mandatory I/A on service contracts .demanded by CSC to increase competition .refused by conferences: undermines system	.is there a need for I/A on service contracts? .what would be the consequences? .who would benefit in the long run?
Service contracts	.introduced as important new provision .little use in Canada .essential terms remain confidential	.what has been the effect of modest usage? .in practice, are commercial parties adopting some alternative? .should "essential terms" be disclosed?
Notice period	.notice period for I/A is 15 days .tariff increases take 30 days notice	.lengthen or shorten notice period? .does the 15-day notice period for I/A also apply to rate increases introduced under I/A?