SMDG Recommendation on Tier Numbering

The Bay-Row-Tier slot numbering scheme for container vessels has originally been described in ISO9711 more than 20 year ago. It contains two statements with regard to tier numbering:

a) The tier number is a two-digit numerical value.
b) Tiers on deck shall start with "82" and rise with even numbers.

This rule obviously allows for nine tiers on deck where the 9th tier is denoted as "98". In order to allow for more than 9 tiers on deck, the rule has to be modified in one way or another.

For electronic data interchange it is most important all parties involved use the same numbering scheme. SMDG discussed potential solutions with major shipping lines, container terminals and software vendors. Since many existing IT systems in the maritime industry rely on 2-digit numeric tier numbers and a change of that rule would be very expensive for all concerned, SMDG decided in April 2013 to approve the following recommendation:

> **In order to avoid three digit tier numbers, IT systems supporting container vessels which allow for 10 or more tiers on deck shall start on-deck tier numbering with tier '72'. No change for existing vessels is intended.**