



Universal Forwarding Overseas, Ltd. Newsletter

July 2014

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PORTS OF LOS ANGELES AND LONG BEACH UPDATE PMA/ILWU CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND 3 LOCAL TRUCKERS STRIKE

The Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) and International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) have agreed to take a 72 hour break in negotiations. During this break the parties have agreed to extend the previous contract through Friday, July 11th at 8:00 am. The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are continuing to operate and both sides are committed to keep the cargo moving.

Also, drivers from three local truckers who haul containers between the rail and the ports of Long Beach/Los Angeles area struck on Monday because they are being classified as contractors and not as full time employees in effort to block them from unionizing. These three truckers represent 10% of container haulers in the area. Currently the drivers are picketing at trucker terminals and not at dockside. If the drivers would begin to picket at dockside terminals, the dockworkers could walk off in solidarity but would be forced to return to work within hours through the mandatory arbitration in the extended contract.

Currently west coast operations are extremely congested because of many reasons including increased cargo in anticipation of a possible strike, heavy summer/peak season traffic, shortage of rail equipment and chassis shortages. If congestions conditions worsen carriers could implement cargo congestion surcharges.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed.

Please contact Marc Mugfor (mmugfor@ufoltd.com) if you have any questions.

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