



Universal Forwarding Overseas, Ltd. Newsletter

November 4, 2014

Established 1978

ILWU / PMA WORK SLOWDOWN CRIPPLES WEST COAST PORTS

The International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) and their counterpart PMA (Pacific Maritime Association which represents employers) are in their 6th month of negotiations to obtain a new contract covering approximately 13,600 workers at 29 ports along with West Coast. The PMA has accused the ILWU of initiating "orchestrated slowdowns at the Pacific Northwest ports of Seattle & Tacoma" which handle about 16% of containerized cargo on the West Coast. We have been notified this afternoon that all vessel gangs have been fired as of 10:00am today resulting in work stoppage on vessels docked in these 2 ports. As a result, effective 5:30pm on Monday, Nov. 3, the BNSF railroad has established an embargo of westbound cargo from Chicago destined for Seattle and Tacoma terminals. In addition, the ports of Los Angeles & Long Beach continue to experience port congestion due to chassis shortages and dislocations, a shortage of truck drivers and shortage of rail car capacity, and many vessels are delayed between 1 and 7 days. Both unions have stated they want to continue negotiating, and talks are scheduled to resume on Wed., 11/5.

UFO will continue to keep you updated on this important issue.

As always, please contact Marc Mugfor (mmugfor@ufold.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

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