

5 June 2014

Shippers to Stay Alert to Possible Port Strike at US West Coast

Hong Kong shippers should stay alert to a possible strike at US West Coast ports. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), representing dockworkers at 29 West Coast ports, and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), representing waterfront employers, are currently negotiating a renewal of their six-year collective bargaining agreement that will expire on 30 June 2014. If no agreement or extension is agreed to by 1 July 2014, a port strike may become likely.

Shippers should note that a work slowdown of ILWU workers and a subsequent lock-out of workers by PMA had caused U.S. West Coast ports to shut down for almost a week in 2002. Substantial disruption to traffic and financial losses are resulted.

The current employer-worker relationship at US West Coast ports is strained. A National Labor Relation Board administrative law judge ruled in end May that the work slowdowns at the Port of Portland from September 2012 to June 2013 illegal.

Shippers should closely liaise with their US partners on necessary precautions.

2014年6月5日

付貨人應留意 美國西岸碼頭可能爆發工潮

香港付貨人應密切留意美國西岸碼頭可能爆發工潮。代表美國西岸 29 個碼頭的工人的國際海岸及貨倉工會(ILWU) 與代表碼頭營運商的太平洋海運協會(PMA) 正就於今年 6 月底屆滿的合約展開續約談判。若果談判破裂，將可能引發罷工。

在 2002 年，由於美國西岸碼頭工潮，導致太平洋海運協會關閉港口接近一星期，帶來了不少運輸延誤及巨大金錢損失。

目前美國西岸碼頭勞資關係異常緊張。美國全國勞工關係委員會法官於 5 月底裁定美國波特蘭港口於 2012 年 9 月至 2013 年 6 月出現工潮屬違法。



付貨人敬請盡快與美方買家商討一旦出現工潮時的應變措施。
