



## TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE NEWS

A compendium of discussion at the monthly meeting by the Trade Facilitation Committee of the MARINE EXCHANGE of the San Francisco Bay Region – Fred Hosking, Chair. For further information or comments, call 415-441-6600, fax 415-441-3080 or visit [www.sfmex.org](http://www.sfmex.org).  
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### April 2003

**CHAIR** - reviewed various items from previous meeting providing updates as required. Many questions still remain with regard to the 24 hour rule and implementation of the various aspects, both carrier & importer (exporters at origin).

**CUSTOMS** - We were very pleased to again have (dual) representation. US Customs is an invaluable asset/member of our group and their participation is greatly appreciated. The issues surrounding the 24 hour rule, increased inspections, as well as the expanded use of X-ray were hot topics of concern and will remain so for the near future. AMS filings are also a contentious problem for many dealing with various overseas agents/NVO's who are now filing directly with AMS, and carrier/NVO's double manifesting is further complicating Customs clearance procedures.

**TRANSPORTATION** – The California Trucking Association has come forward now fighting the Chassis/container detention charges imposed by the terminal operators/steamship lines; they are trying to declare certain provisions of the standard equipment interchange agreement used by ocean carriers/terminal operators as illegal - certainly a brisk step forward. In addition, the Lowenthal bill provides for a scale of fines if a truck idles at a

gate for more than 30 minutes. They are seeking a temporary injunction and relief from the UIIA by shipping lines.

**COAST GUARD** – Reduction of security level to Code Yellow. New advance notice of arrival requirements now in place for vessels over 300 MT carrying certain dangerous cargoes, which includes petroleum products. USCG confirmed that SARS screening procedures are also in place for water borne arrivals from specific origins and contingency plans fixed should they be necessary with the discovery of a SARS related malady.

**PORT SECURITY** - SFMX reminds that the monthly Port Security meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month & generally at the Port of Oakland offices. New state of the art security equipment is being installed in the Port of Oakland over the next few weeks giving greater coverage/security to the major port facilities

**CBFANC** – PCC mission to Washington DC in place with various appointments on the "hill" concerning elements germane to the West Coast, and of course specifically California. In conjunction with CBFANC our very own John Leitner co-chaired (and in fact ended up narrating) an excellent presentation on the 24 Hour Rule and the various aspects of advance cargo information requirements affecting both air and ocean shipments. Additionally, there was

also a review of the FAQ for 24 hour advance vessel manifest rule now some 50 pages long..... available for those inquiring minds on the Customs Website.

**BANKING** – Again concerns over the 24 hour rule and implications with regard to Letters of Credit. An example was put forward where L/C details were contrary to the final shipping documents/bills of lading, coupled with a change in vessel – but, all in accordance with the 24 hour rule/AMS procedures! One entity satisfied – the other not, and in the end, questions arose concerning the correctness of the transaction view 24 hr rule. Bank-ing still has many issues with the 24 hour rule and how they are/can correctly interface.

**Reminder: SFMX Annual Mayday Party, Thursday May 22, 2003, Pier 35, 17-2100 hours!**

**Next meeting:**

**Tuesday, May 20, 2003**

**San Francisco World Trade Club**

#### Attending:

Alan Steinbrugge, Marine Exchange; Commander Steve Boyle USCG; Deanna Behr, Hoyt Shepston; Louis Andrade and Francine Boards, The Mechanics Bank; Ted Rausch, Ted L Rausch & Co.; Francean Rible & Steve Baxter, Customs & Border Protection (CBP); Glen Coville, Comerica Bank; Charles Coleman, Holland & Knight. Chaired by Fred Hosking.