



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.
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October 2004

CHAIR -- welcomed a long absent member, Charlie Coleman who it turns out is sharing his x#o%# birthday with us! Again (without song this time)...


Happy Birthday!

From the TFC

Other items of interest and review, Miscellaneous Trade Bill includes certification of wines for import into the US by EU country producers; Labor – Gulf/East Coast began new 6 yr agreement ; 7 day rule – status/update; mandatory inspection issues for “10%” of the cargo; fuel costs increasing in all tradelanes as well as truck costs; LA congestion surcharge put forward by med carriers at \$150 TEU! // northern European carriers \$200 TEU – East Coast suffering similar surcharges ...WESCON update // great success!; Pier 80 inspection portal; Kay Fike retirement...

CBP & FDA Related issues –

Vaccus exams in the area going very well, but anticipate exam levels to increase throughout end year. Inspections will increase on all Customs related fronts via Vaccus/Radiation Portal Monitors. FDA joint efforts moving forward with no real problems to report. November 15 is the magic date for FAST registration for BRASS Truck Drivers at border crossings. Truck AMR requires that

manifests be transmitted 60 minutes prior to arrival at crossing; FAST 30 minutes before.

PMSA

CTA is putting forward more issues/legislation for 2005. Stay tuned as this unfolds. Congestion/waiting times, inspections, all in the foreground.

COAST GUARD –

Security level, elevated.

96 hour rule working much better; reporting procedures are in line; terminal security plans in place and working well. Senator Feinstein’s office is now added into the local security committee. We may see some structure & personnel changes during 1st quarter 2005. Fleet week was very successful even without the Blue Angels, although attendance down, but no incidents to report.

LEGAL -

Issue of NVOCC service contracts to come to fruition later in the week... NCBFAA has been actively involved in this resolution

CARRIERS -

Continual delays now becoming the norm; some carriers experiencing 8 day delays when calling LA ports. Matson has added two extra vessels in the Hawaii service to compensate/equalize for congestion delays. Empty container inspection issue and USCG involvement as well as who will bear extra costs... Staffing/inefficiencies have

adversely affected productivity in southern ports as discussed many times here, creating extra cost burdens for carriers.

PORTS –

Pier Pass in LA is becoming a reality. As mentioned in this text before, even a nominal figure of \$20 per TEU based on 20,000 containers a day is a generous revenue opportunity... Website has been set up as www.pierpass.com

CBFANC –

WESCON was a resounding success with over 300 attendees. Continuing education will remain a major point of next WESCON set for October 20-23, 2005 at the Monterey Hyatt. End October/beginning November the new Select Site at the airport will be open and operational for those signed up for boxes. Jeanne Burns is spear heading that project.

Propeller Club meeting set for Wednesday November 3, 2005; SFMX has details

Next meeting:

Tuesday, November 16, 2004
San Francisco World Trade Club

Attending: Alan Steinbrugge, SFMX; Deanna Behr, Hoyt Marine; Joe Palazzolo, Palazzolo & Associates; Captain Jerry Swanson, COTP, USCG; John P. Leyden, CBP; John Leitner, W. J. Byrnes; John Berge, PMSA; Charles Coleman, Holland & Knight; Gerhard Jacob, Hamburg Sud; Helmut Boeck, Ted L. Rausch Co. Chaired by Fred Hosking, Hoyt Shepston, Inc.