

Potential American Port Strikes

The Exchange is aware of concerns by the vendor community surrounding potential strikes at American ports. Currently there are two potential strikes threatening cargo movement. According to the Long Beach Post there has been an on-going clerical strike for the last six days. Workers are demanding guarantees that their work will not be out sourced. The strike is not currently affecting shipping traffic due to the fact that paperwork is completed several days in advance. The strike is only affecting two of the fourteen shipping companies operating out of the port of Long Beach.

The second strike is associated with the International Longshoreman's Association and the Maritime Alliance. They are currently in contract negotiations over the contract that is set to expire on September 30th. This strike (if it occurs) will only affect the East and Gulf Coast ports. Over sixty percent of shippers have already made contingency preparations in order to keep shipments moving during the busy fourth quarter.

The Exchange logistics team is aware of the situation and is in contact with the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command who manages our export cargo bookings. It is their opinion that the strike is not likely. They have been monitoring the International Longshoreman's Association and Seafarers International Union closely. Neither organization has indicated that a strike is imminent. We will advise as further information is received.