



ILWU and PMA Update

After an extended holiday break, the ILWU and PMA resumed labor contract negotiations in San Francisco on December 2. An upcoming longshoreman caucus, beginning December 15, could approve a tentative contract agreement. As reported in the Journal of Commerce on December 3, "If ILWU leadership believes there is enough substance in what has been negotiated by then, it would seek authorization to sign a tentative contract that would then have to be approved in a vote by the rank and file in the ensuing weeks." However, if the union's leaders are not confident in what they have to present to the caucus, negotiations with the PMA will continue. The PMA website for Los Angeles-Long Beach reported that man-hours paid to longshoremen in November were 26 percent higher than during November 2013. As the PMA and ILWU have agreed not to publically discuss the contents of contract talks, outstanding contract issues remain unknown.

TPEB Fuel Surcharges Q1 2015

The Trans-Pacific Stabilization Agreement announced their 1st quarter 2015 fuel surcharge amounts for the Trans-Pacific Eastbound trade, effective January 1. The amounts are as follows:

- BAF (USWC) - \$448/497/559/629
(\$+33/-71/-87/-28 from Q4)
- BAF (IPI) - \$746/829/933/1050
(\$+48/-43/-48/-54 from Q4)
- BAF (USEC) - \$835/928/1044/1175
(\$+51/-52/-59/-66 from Q4)
- IFS - \$332 per container
(\$-21 from Q4)
- Local IFS - \$101
(unchanged from Q4)

Please see the [TSA website](#) for further details.



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Port Congestion Surcharge

All carriers have now suspended the Port Congestion Surcharge until further notice. On December 3, the FMC announced that TSA carriers have agreed to suspend Port Congestion Surcharges until 2015. Read the FMC's full press release [here](#).

December 15 General Rate Increase

As previously published, TSA carriers will implement a December 15th GRI in the amount of \$800/20', \$1000/40', \$1125/40'HQ and \$1266/45' on Trans-Pacific Eastbound cargo. As always, Unitrans will continue to work to mitigate charges and support our customers in any way possible.

Strikes Continue in Belgium

Across Belgium, labor unions continue to organize regional strikes to protest the government's austerity program, particularly its plan to raise the retirement age to 67. On December 8, a 24 hour strike by rail workers and workers at Brussels airport will halt all domestic and international operations. A nationwide strike will take place on December 15, closing all ports, airports and rail depots.

Links of the Week

[October Trade](#), [Customs Agreement](#), [Air Cargo](#)

INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS	
Holidays do not necessarily indicate close of business	
December 5	Bonaire, Marshall Islands, Thailand,
December 6	Finland, Nepal, Spain, Sri Lanka, +
December 7	East Timor
December 8	Argentina, Austria, Italy, Panama, Portugal, Spain +
December 9	Antigua and Barbuda, Tanzania
December 10	Cambodia, Mauritius, Namibia, Thailand +
December 11	Burkina Faso, Madagascar

