



Universal Forwarding Overseas, Ltd. Newsletter

January 15, 2015

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WEST COAST LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

As stated in our January 6th newsletter, the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) had agreed to seek mediation in their contract dispute. However, work slowdowns continue at the West Coast ports, and this is bringing the port operations to the brink of near gridlock. Although the mediator cannot dictate a solution to the contract impasse, past experience with federal mediation has shown that most of the time mediators have helped the parties to reach a compromise.

UPDATE: RAILROAD EMBARGO LIFTED TO U.S. WEST COAST

The Burlington Northern Sante Fe railroad (BNSF) lifted their westbound cargo embargo on January 7th. They stated that although the labor issues remain unresolved with the U.S. West Coast unions, the lanes involving the West Coast have become more manageable and are now in full operation.

MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY - PORT INFORMATION

Several U.S ports will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2015 in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday. UFO booking sheets will reflect the earlier cut off dates, and our offices will be open on Monday to serve your needs.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

The New Year begins on February 19th in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Several companies in these countries close for several days and/or weeks during the holidays. We suggest that you contact your overseas clients regarding their holiday schedule for delivery of goods in order to avoid possible storage & demurrage charges.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact Marc Mugfor at mmugfor@ufold.com.

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