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## Household Goods Shipment Delays: U.S. West Coast – UPDATE February 23, 2015

### Overview

This past year a contract dispute between the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union began (ILWU). This has caused major ongoing port congestion at U.S. west coast ports and other ports in the U.S. accepting international shipments.

After several communications had been sent, this contract dispute issue even reached the attention of the White House. The President had to call upon the U.S. Secretary of Labor, Tom Perez to meet with both parties of the dispute to help them reach a contract by this past Friday, as West Coast congestion was nearing a breaking point.

While shipments were continuing to pile up and add to the backlog of incoming shipments, some being anchored off the coast and waiting, this past weekend a tentative agreement was reached between the PMA and ILWU.

### What does this mean?

Work in the ports is going back to normal, though the backlog of shipments may still take several weeks to clear. Priority will be given to perishable shipments. Since the tentative agreement on Friday, workers at all ports on the west coast were starting to clear the backlog on Saturday, with additional orders for labor being made in the larger ports to make up for this backlog.

In addition to the seasonal volume increases, this contract dispute has added to a heavy backlog at the ports. Additional port storage, demurrage charges for import and export containers, an additional levy and other charges may occur and be applied. This delay may cause the need, and increase requests, for additional temporary support for assignees and their families.

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