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Ocean Updates

Port of Montreal Labour Negotiations Update

A contract offer from the Maritime Employers Association (MEA) was to be voted on by Port of Montreal dockworkers on Sunday, April 21.

If the dockworkers voted against the offer, the union and the MEA will meet on Monday and Tuesday to continue discussions with the help of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

WSC Seeks Correction of Contradiction in U.S. FMC Detention and Demurrage Final Rule

The World Shipping Council (WSC) last week filed a petition for review with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit seeking to have the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) correct an internal contradiction in its new rule on detention and demurrage.

Statement of WSC President & CEO John Butler regarding this petition for review:

“Congress directed the FMC to further clarify its interpretive rule for billing detention and demurrage, but the final rule contains a significant internal contradiction regarding the billing of motor carriers for detention and demurrage. That inconsistency is already creating substantial confusion and uncertainty for ocean carriers and other industry participants.

The preamble to the rule clearly states that an ocean carrier may invoice a motor carrier with which it holds a contract. The language of the rule itself, however, appears to prohibit such billing. WSC asked the Commission to fix this inconsistency through a technical correction to the final rule, but the FMC has not to date done so. Therefore, WSC is petitioning the D.C. Circuit to correct this inconsistency in order to ensure regulatory clarity for ocean carriers, their customers and business partners.”

[Press release from the World Shipping Council.](#)

Customs Regulatory

CBSA Phasing In CARM: Launching Internally for CBSA Use as Planned in May and in the Fall for Trade Chain Partners

On Friday, the CBSA provided an update on its plans for the launch of CARM.

CARM will launch internally at the CBSA on May 13, as planned, to advance the Agency's compliance and enforcement efforts. However, as a result of strike vote activity now underway by the Public Service Alliance of Canada and the possible impact on the Agency's operations in the event of a positive strike vote, it is the intention of the CBSA to reschedule the launch for trade chain partners to October 2024. This will ensure that the Agency can support partners as they start using CARM. Therefore, until the fall, trade chain partners will continue to operate as they have.

Read more in a [press release from the CBSA](#).