

# CANADA Daily News and Updates December 13rd 2024

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## Ocean Updates

### Indian Port Strikes Threat Ends as Labour Agreement Gets the Green Light

Fears of a strike set to hit Indian government ports have ended as a new five-year labour agreement is finally approved and the labour tension at the major gateways eases.

The leadership of the country's six leading dockworker unions had threatened stoppages from December 17 to secure a government nod to the enhanced wage and pension rules reached with port managements in September.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

### U.S. Port Efficiency Rankings Spark Heated Debate as ILA-USMX Labour Negotiations Intensify

The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) leadership is challenging recent media narratives about U.S. port efficiency, as tensions escalate over port automation ahead of a critical January 2025 deadline.

The media claims stem from the Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), an annual report by the World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence. Released in June 2024, the latest CPPI, covering data from 2023, highlights the dominance of East and Southeast Asian ports, which secured 13 of the top 20 spots. U.S. ports, however, failed to make the top 50, with Charleston ranking 53rd and Philadelphia 55th. By contrast, major U.S. container ports like Los Angeles, Long Beach and New York/New Jersey ranked 375th, 373rd and 92nd, respectively.

The report comes as the ILA and the U.S. Maritime Alliance (USMX) are embroiled in a contentious battle over port automation, with a January 15, 2025, deadline looming for their labour contract negotiations. The dispute has already sparked a three-day strike at U.S. East and Gulf Coast ports in October and raises concerns of further disruptions in January.

Read more in an [article from gCaptain](#).

### **DP World Expands Port Saint John Capacity**

DP World and Port Saint John have welcomed two of the largest cranes ever deployed at the port, marking a major step in enhancing container handling capacity and operational efficiency.

The new additions aim to bolster the port's role in global trade and strengthen Saint John's position as a key Atlantic gateway.

The cranes, each with an outreach of 65 metres and capable of spanning 24 containers wide, can service vessels exceeding 10,000 TEUs. Their arrival increases the port's total to six quay cranes, the highest capacity in its history.

The arrival of the cranes coincides with the completion of the port's \$250-million modernization project.

Read more in an [article from Inside Logistics](#).

## **Technology**

### **APEC Leaders Commit to Enabling and Promoting the Electronic Bill of Lading**

On November 16, the leaders and trade ministers of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), covering more than 60% of global trade, concluded their summit by issuing declarations, which include a strong commitment to promoting the use of electronic trade-related documents and the electronic bill of lading (eBL) in particular.

Research has shown that switching away from the transfer of physical, paper-based bills of lading could save stakeholders around \$6.5 billion in direct costs, enable \$30 billion to \$40 billion in annual global trade growth, transform the customer experience, and improve sustainability. The "Machu Pichu Declaration" of the APEC leaders is a major milestone to unlocking these benefits for all stakeholders in international trade.

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).

### **FIT Alliance's 2024 Survey Shows Steady Rise of Electronic Bill of Lading Adoption Globally**

The FIT Alliance, co-founded by BIMCO, DCSA, FIATA, ICC and SWIFT, this week announced the results of its 2024 survey on electronic bills of lading (eBL). The survey shows a steady rise in eBL adoption and underlines the importance of stakeholder collaboration in driving further progress.

In the two years since the first eBL survey was undertaken in summer 2022, the proportion of users adopting eBL has risen steadily. The share of dual-format users (those using both paper and electronic bills of lading) has surged from 28.0% in 2022 to 41.7% in 2024. As a result, the overall adoption rate – encompassing users of eBLs exclusively or alongside paper BLs – has risen from 33.0% to 49.2%.

In other words, nearly half of respondents now incorporate eBLs in some capacity, and 74.7% of paper-only users plan to transition to eBLs, up from 58.0% in 2022. Within this group, 32.2% intend to adopt within the next two years, compared with 22.0% in 2022.

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).