



Date October 3, 2024

Subject **Customer Advisory: US East and Gulf Coast Port Labor Dispute**

Dear [*insert customer name*],

We are closely monitoring the market situation in the **United States** and would like to provide you with an update regarding work stoppages at East and Gulf Coast ports.

A port strike by the ILA impacting East and Gulf coast ports remains in effect as of 00:01 Tuesday morning, October 1st. During the strike it is expected that terminal access is not possible, and vessel loading and unloading operations will not be conducted.

To ensure that you have full visibility of your shipments during this period, we encourage you to utilize **myDHLi**, our digital platform, which allows you to track your cargo in real-time and manage bookings efficiently.

Please see below additional guidance via frequently asked questions:

FAQ

What is the status of the negotiations between the ILA and USMX?

There has reportedly been a recent exchange of counter-proposals between the two parties. The official ILA and USMX statements on contract negotiation updates may be found here:

<https://ilaunion.org/strike-updates/>

<https://www.usmx.com/resources/usmx-ila-negotiations-updates/>

How long will the strike last?

It is not known how long the strike will last. We expect for every day of strike it will take at least 5 days for recovery until containers reach final destinations, empty containers are returned, and vessels can be offloaded.

Will the US government intervene to end the strike?

The Biden administration has repeatedly said that they will not intervene to end the strike and that they are encouraging all parties to negotiate an agreement. The latest statement from the administration is found [here](#).

What are the best options to keep my shipments moving?

DHL will continue to accept ocean bookings while ocean carriers are accepting bookings. Because the length of the strike is not known, a backlog of booking requests is expected to build in impacted tradelanes, and the length of the queue will keep increasing over time.

If in your tradelane there is an option to ship to a US West Coast port, DHL can assist with ocean, trucking and transload capacity.

Additionally, shipping to the US via air freight can be a good option during this time and your DHL air freight operations teams stand ready to assist.



Can I ship to the US via Canada?

A port strike affecting Montreal terminals has been in place since September 30th and is expected to end on October 3rd. There will be a significant backlog to clear in Montreal and this could impact additional Canadian East Coast ports as well. Regular shipments to Canada may continue during this time.

Can I ship to the US via Mexico?

If a customer is already using Mexico as a normal shipping lane with product regularly being imported into Mexico and later shipped to the US, this may continue. Limited availability of trucking, warehouse and rail solutions, and local Customs regulations in Mexico, make this a complicated and risky option to choose.

What about my LCL cargo?

Shipments that have been picked up from the port and are already in transit to destination will continue per normal. Shipments that were not picked up from the port prior to the start of the strike will remain on the terminal until the strike ends, and we will notify you if your shipment is affected. DHL will accept new LCL bookings so long as they are being accepted by the carrier.

My shipment has been diverted to an alternate port, what can I expect?

Some steamship lines have started diverting cargo to alternate Ports of Discharge. We will notify you if your shipment is affected. Please be aware that any diversions may result in additional charges/costs. These charges/costs will be your responsibility as per the terms outlined in our rules tariff and bill of lading.

Thank you for your understanding, and rest assured, we are closely monitoring the situation to keep you informed of any impacts on your cargo.

What additional strike related surcharge will be assessed by the market?

Ocean carriers have implemented emergency cost recovery surcharges in the market. As a result, DHL plans on implementing its own surcharge to account for this increased cost. More information regarding DHL's surcharge and its corresponding cost will be communicated to customers shortly.

If you have any questions, please contact your local DHL Global Forwarding Sales or Customer Service representative. We appreciate your continued partnership and understanding during this time.

Kind regards

[insert DGF contact name]

DHL Global Forwarding*

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