



Date October 23, 2024

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

Dear Customer,

We are continuing to closely monitor the market situation in the **United States** and would like to provide you with an update regarding the status of contract negotiations between the ILA and USMX. An agreement to end the port strike was reached on October 3rd and ports throughout the country have been working through the backlog since then, allowing operations to return to a normal state.

An agreement in principle on wage levels for the new contract was reached, while some items, such as the use of automation, are yet to be settled. The existing contract was extended until January 15th, 2025 with the understanding that both parties would continue to negotiate in good faith to finalize terms for the new contract. The ILA and USMX have until January 15th to reach a new agreement.

If an agreement is not reached before January 15th, it is possible that another work stoppage could occur. We encourage the following proactive measures to help minimize the potential impact of a service disruption:

1. **Frontloading:** Consider building up inventory in advance of January 15th to avoid stock-out situations.
2. **Route via the US West Coast:** Explore alternate routings to the USWC if it makes sense for your trade lane. Shipments can be onforwarded via rail or transloaded to the intended destination.

To ensure full visibility of your shipments during this period, we encourage you to utilize **myDHLi**, our digital platform that offers real-time cargo tracking and efficient booking management.

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
DHL Global Forwarding*

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