



TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE NEWS

A compendium of discussion at the monthly meeting by the Trade Facilitation Committee of the MARINE EXCHANGE of the San Francisco Bay Region – Fred Hosking, Chair. For further information or comments, call 415-441-6600, fax 415-441-3080 or visit www.sfmex.org.
Mail: Marine Exchange, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. B #325, San Francisco CA 94123-1380

September 2003

CHAIR - Reviewed topics of August meeting and addressed issues of mutual concerns and updates from attendees.

CBP & FDA Related issues

As everyone is aware, the deadline for FDA registration is looming on the horizon with FDA on the fence with regard to any revisions/changes to the current wording of the soon to be implemented new procedures. CBFANC has distributed a draft letter to be forwarded to various Congressional types concerning the implementation of the new FDA rules, etc – available with the monthly newsletter as well as on the CBFANC website.. This is a hot topic given that trading partners around the world will have to register with FDA within a very short window. Questions remain whether its really possible to accomplish... if not registered by December 12, 2003, importers will be restricted or held up until formalities are completed. Prior notice also comes into play and is another important factor in the new rules/regulations and completing the import process. Without FDA compliance, CBP cannot complete their end of the transactions. There are rumors of several FDA meetings in the weeks to come. CBFANC will be putting word out as details become available. The FDA Website is a valuable tool – click on Bioterrorism in the highlighted

window on the right side of the page.

PORT ACTIVITIES – regretfully we did not have a representative from the Port of Oakland, but understand there has been substantial personnel changes and staff reductions. We very much look forward to their future participation as a respected member and contributor to the TFC and local community.

COAST GUARD – Very informative update/overview on the activities and scope of the Vessel Traffic Services, and how it relates to the operations of the entire Bay area port system.

PMSA Update on the legislative activities and status of the lingering California Truckers Assn push for changes in the overall rules and responsibilities of the trucking community as it relates primarily to the movement of ocean cargoes, terminals, detention, licensing, etc. Bunker tax exemption bill now with the Governor for signature which would be a 10 yr extension to the present exemption; carriers are using other markets (Canadian/Washington State) for bunkering because of the tax. Expect 2004 to yield more environmental issues, cleaner fuels; EU now imposing new restrictions on fuel mix while under power & in port.

CBFANC – WESCON last week October in New Mexico. Website has details. CBFANC is organizing a FDA dinner meeting November 5, 2003 which should be very valuable to the community given the short timeframe for implementation of the new rules.

CARRIERS - Expect a change in AMS procedures mid October to take effect during 1st quarter 2004. Canadian Long Shore discussions under way – no anticipated work stoppage expected, but that could quickly change. Pacific trade lane sluggish not reaching anticipated heights that were projected. Expect some EU strike /labor disruptions affecting several countries, likely only 48 hours in duration. Vessel charter market has jumped significantly with regard to the smaller feeder sized (2000 TEU) vessels now at \$25K versus only \$9700 last year. Shipyards worldwide are full until end 2005/6 leaving the charter market the only viable alternative to many.

Next meeting:

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

San Francisco World Trade Club

Attending:

Jeff Mac Carthy, Marine Exchange; Gerhard Jacob, Columbus Line; Ted Rausch, Ted L. Rausch; Jeanne Burns, CBFANC; Francean Rible, CBP; CDR Pauline Cook, USCG; Jack Murphy, APL; John Pressler, Hapag Lloyd; Chaired by Fred Hosking, Hoyt Shepston, Inc.