



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.sfm.org.
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..Happy Holidays!.. Good Yule!.. Merry Christmas!.. Happy New Year!.. 2005 !

December 2004

CHAIR As the year comes to a close, thanks to all of our TFC members for their participation and contribution to the overall good of our Port and regional area. This Committee has been able to *facilitate* and expedite a varied number of topics this year allowing our trade community to focus on the task at hand, trade.. To all of you, thank you for taking the time to be a part of the success of the SFMX TFC; for those of you who haven't taken an active part, join us in the year ahead.

CBP – CBP/FDA joint efforts moving forward with no real problems to report. Special meeting on December 21st to address the new rules/regs and implementation. Question arose over status of the *Serge up* in inspections in the Oakland port/terminals – some-thing we're all too familiar with. Of major note to the region, Dick Peltier will retire end December. He has brought sensibility, stability and reason to the food and beverage industry and will be sorely missed. We wish him well in his next endeavor – retirement party January 6th, L'Olivier. Francean Rible, also will take the retirement step end January 2005. She has contributed immeasurably to our trade community and, selfishly, to this committee and will be missed for her contributions and participation. She has been a tremendous asset to the region. Her retirement party is February 1 at the Basque Center in SSF;

details to follow. John P. Leyden will address CBFANC on the “State of the Port” on January 26, 2005. CBFANC has details.

FDA – In the absence of Barbara Cassens, Darrell Lee and Steven Gillenwater joined the table. We welcome the continued participation by FDA. The new import entry review station (dedicated to Janet Coder) will now house the whole team and should vastly improve communication with the trade community. P/N interim final rule/rewrite in process; apprx 200K now registered with the FDA both foreign and domestic. New nominee for head of FDA is Mike Levitt... stay tuned...

PMSA –Environmental issues continue to take the forefront. PierPass will go into affect in LA/LB 5 nights per week in March 2005. Hopefully new hires in the ILWU will ease congestion and *facilitate* the new gate hours. Many carriers now by-passing the greater LA ports because of the delays; terminals are so congested even if they are able to dock, work is sluggish at best.

COAST GUARD – *Security level One, yellow, elevated.* End year – 31 December – is the deadline for vessel signal/identity programs to be in place – MTSA automated system to take over. 96 hr advance notice – no violations in last 30 days.

LEGAL - FMC will allow service contacts beginning mid Jan by NVO's – affiliates can also join in, but must have a fiduciary interest in/by the contract signatory to participate.

CARRIERS - A sad day for the Port of San Francisco (and community) with the last outbound container vessel sailing from Pier 80 by the Hamburg Sud consortia, then moving to Oakland. Pier 80 will concentrate on bulk cargoes. LA/LB infrastructure issues, railcar shortages, chassis shortages, containers misrouted- “rail meltdown” playing havoc with carriers & trade – end result is return voyages miss Panama appointments, further delays. Carriers have larger vessels to address greater demands, ports/terminals can't handle, greater congestion! delays!

TRUCKING – Chassis shortages – spending whole days on terminal for pickups and in the end no containers...congestion easing.

CBFANC – Concerns about BTA and implementation process; CBP/FDA have extended the branch to/with CBFANC.

Next meeting:

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

San Francisco World Trade Club

Attending: Alan Steinbrugge; Louis Antrade, The Mechanics Bank; Deanna Behr, Hoyt Marine; Steven Gillenwater, Darrell Lee, USFDA; Ted Rausch/Helmut Boeck, Ted L Rausch; Jeremy Potash, Potash & Co; Tom Kearsley, Pacific Commodities; Captain Jerry Swanson, COTP, USCG; Francean Rible, CBP; John Leitner, W. J. Byrnes; Laura Williams, PMSA; Charlie Coleman, Holland & Knight; Gerhard Jacob, Hamburg Sud; John Pressler, Hapag Lloyd; Diane Weldon, CBFANC; Fred Hosking, Hoyt Shepston, Inc.