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We have two significant situations that we're watching as they will impact your cargo shipping. Please contact your Cargo Services team if you have questions. We will keep you updated as we learn more about each situation.

**Next Thursday, Feb. 7 will be an interesting day.** Not only does the latest extension of the ILA-USMX contract on the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts expire at midnight Feb. 6, but now comes word that members of the Office Clerical Unit of the ILWU at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach will be voting on the proposed six-year contract approved by negotiators in December.

The shipping lines have added port congestion surcharges, in the event of a strike, in the amount of ; \$800/20', \$1000/40', \$1125/40HC (and also surcharges on LCL), which would be in addition to any storage charges at the pier or rails.

**Changes in chassis policies.** We've been monitoring a trend by the ocean shipping lines as they move away from providing free chassis as part of their services. One by one, an array of inland markets have been dropped. Indianapolis is next on the list.

What this means to our clients is that we now have to add extra charges for Chassis Rental, and Chassis Repositioning charges, as our trucking partners have to rent the chassis and pick it up from one location, go to a second location to pick up empty containers, and deliver the loaded containers to the rails. Sometimes they also have to return the chassis to the rental location. We're already experiencing chassis shortages in Indianapolis, and effective March 1 these new policies take effect.

Please contact me with questions or comments,  
Steve Klinger

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