



INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT SERVICES, INC.

1610 ROLLINS ROAD, BURLINGAME, CA 94010 (1 mile from San Francisco Airport)
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Customhouse Brokers
Air & Ocean Freight
Packing – Crating
Insurance



January 25, 2005

TO: ALL IMPORT CLIENTS

RE: UPDATE ON CURRENT PORT DELAYS IN OAKLAND

As you probably know, containers are experiencing delays and/or demurrage due to the following:

1. Congestion Delays: This is getting somewhat better and it varies with the container line terminal being used.
2. Occasionally, the vessel arrival is delayed past the scheduled time.
3. X-Ray Examination, 3 to 5 days delay: As you know, this is new procedure being applied as part of post 9/11 security procedures. This is evolving. X-ray costs from \$150.00 to \$250.00 per container (must be paid prior to release of container).
4. Full Examination, 3 extra days delay or more: This can occur after the x-ray examination. In this case, container may be selected for a full examination and the cost runs from \$800.00 to \$1000.00 per container (must be paid prior to release of container).
5. USDA Hold for USDA Commodities: This occurs mostly with reefer cargo that has only two days free time. Thus the container is often subject to demurrage charges. They also need to verify the container seals.
6. Each of the above actions by, X-ray Team, USDA Team and Full Container Examination Team, causes three delays:
 - a. Moving the container to the exam site
 - b. Due to examination
 - c. Due to the time delay between the actual examination and when the inspector comes back to base and then inputs the container clearance for its particular level.
(We definitely miss the days when the customs inspection was the only level and delays were practically non-existent)
7. Each level of this examination forces us to:
 - Spend more time checking and chasing the teams to push them along.
 - Advance funds for the respective fees to be paid prior to container release. Some charges can be paid via messenger at the local level. Some other payees are out of state and we need to send the check by Fedex courier.

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Despite our continuous effort to look after all the above issues, demurrage charges will occur due to the above security levels.

8. How to mitigate the impact of the above: If you qualify for C-TPAT certification, it should reduce the number of examinations. C-TPAT was very difficult as originally conceived. Customs has now made it easier to participate/qualify. The pioneer work was done by the National importers. This caused customs to take the kinks out of the system. Now is the time for you to take advantage of the bigger importer's pioneer work with C-TPAT.

We recommend you should explore this option at this time.
Website: www.cbp.gov and click to quicklinks

C-TPAT has its own level of qualification.

When you qualify, please advise I.F.S.

We will keep you informed as the procedure changes/evolves.

Best Regards,

I.F.S. Import Department

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