

## Los Angeles and Long Beach Truckers to Vote Whether to Strike

Organizers of truckers that haul cargo at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have called for a vote on Saturday, April 25, 2015 to decide whether they should strike in the next few days. The strike, if passed, will be an effort by the drivers to urge their respective employers to hire them on a full-time basis and negotiate a union contract. The foundation of the strike is a ruling by the U.S. Department of Labor that determined that drivers were misclassified as independent contractors instead of employees. According to the truckers' organizers, the misclassification has resulted in lost wages and workplace protection and benefits by allowing companies to bypass labor laws and avoid paying fair wages.



If drivers decide to strike, it would be the sixth job action contract drivers have taken against drayage employers in the past two years, according to Teamsters spokeswoman, Barb Maynard. The impact of the strike will rely on the participation by the drivers. Since most drivers are owner-operators and are not members of a union, any days they are not driving are days for which they are not getting paid. For this reason, organizers of truckers have not been able to convince a majority of drivers to stop working in the past.

The organizers will announce the results of the vote on Monday morning, April 27, 2015. The strike could begin as early as the same day.

*Please contact your local KWE branch if you have further inquiries.*

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