



The West Coast contract agreement between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and Pacific Maritime Association on February 20, 2015 has been ratified after passing by an 82% margin in a vote by longshore union members. With the employers ratifying the contract on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, the new 5-year contract is retroactive to the expiration date of the previous contract, July 1, 2014 and will expire on July 1, 2019. Covering 20,000 dockworkers at 29 West Coast ports, the contract includes concerns pertaining to automation, employer-paid medical benefits, and the jurisdiction of the chassis inspection, maintenance and repair. In an increasingly competitive environment the enhanced arbitration system built into the new contract will support the West Coast ports waterfront stability, capacity growth and productivity, according to a statement released by the PMA.

PMA President and CEO Jim Mckenna said, "This contract provides an important framework for the hard work ahead to overcome new competitive challenges and to continue to position the West Coast ports as destinations of choice for shippers worldwide. From San Diego to Bellingham, these ports have long been the primary gateways for cargo coming into and leaving the United States, and our interests are aligned in ensuring they can effectively, and efficiently, handle the capacity growth that drives economies and jobs."

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

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