



News Release

Port Considers New Measure to Speed Cargo Flow Flexible 'free time' could encourage faster delivery

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To increase velocity of cargo moving out of the Port of Long Beach, officials will consider reducing the amount of time import containers can be stored on docks without charge.

Since 2005, the length of time containers can stay on the dock, called "free time," has been four days. Beyond that, terminals are charged storage fees. With larger vessels calling on the Port regularly, there are more containers at terminals, inhibiting the ability of workers to deliver containers quickly and efficiently.



Port officials are proposing changing free time to six shifts, the equivalent of as few as three days, to encourage terminals to more consistently operate at night, moving imports off the docks faster.

"When containers stack up in terminals, it leads to extra handling that makes the process slower for longshore workers, the shippers that depend on them, truckers who move the goods, and ultimately the consumer," said Port of Long Beach CEO Jon Slingerup. "This approach will keep the system more fluid and help avoid congestion."

In the coming weeks, Port staff will work with all stakeholders to develop a final plan that will be proposed to the Board of Harbor Commissioners for consideration.

"Truckers have told us their containers are not always accessible because of fewer evening shifts, and terminal operators want to clear space in their yards while giving their customers enough time to get their cargo," said Port of Long Beach Chief Commercial Officer Dr. Noel Hacegaba. "Our idea, 'flexible free time,' is an innovative use of the tools we have to balance

those needs.”

The Port of Long Beach is one of the world’s premier seaports, a gateway for trans-Pacific trade and a trailblazer in goods movement and environmental stewardship. With 175 shipping lines connecting Long Beach to 217 seaports, the Port handles \$180 billion in trade annually, supporting hundreds of thousands of Southern California jobs.

Media Contact: Art Wong, Port of Long Beach Assistant Director of Communications/Public Information Officer, (562) 283-7702 (office), (562) 619-5665 (cell), art.wong@polb.com.

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