



The American Companies

"NEWS-UPDATE"

November 4, 2008

PortCheck to Begin Clean Truck Fee Collection November 17th!

We have previously sent out several notices to remind our valued clients about the new Clean Truck Program in the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. (Past issues of News Flashes and News Letters are available on our web site at <http://www.shipamerican.com>). This fee is applicable to loaded containers whether import or export and include some inland rail shipments where off dock facilities are used. We expect the additional fee will become due and payable as of November 17th, 2008. Below are excerpts from the announcement regarding this new fee. Under the ports' program, the beneficial cargo owner (the party named on the bill of lading) is responsible for paying the CTF. The CTF will be payable by credit card or electronic funds transfer, and must be paid before a container can enter or leave the terminals. Before the CTF is paid, the cargo must be claimed. Beginning November 17th, no cargo will be allowed to enter or exit from a marine container terminal unless the cargo has been claimed. PortCheck will be distributing much more information about claiming cargo, paying the CTF, and other PortCheck related issues in the coming weeks. Please be on the lookout for our communications. For more information on the Clean Trucks Program of the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, please visit the ports' web sites, www.portoflosangeles.org/cleantrucks and www.polb.com/cleantrucks.

There are several options available to you as outlined below. If you have any further questions, please contact your Customer Service representative, Martin Marin Import Manager Los Angeles/Long Beach Office, or Maurine Cecil, Vice President Customs Brokerage Operations at 562-435-2327, or RoseAnn Burke Vice President NVOCC Operations at 201-478-4608.

- Option #1 - You can sign up and process this payment yourself at the www.pierpass.org website. If you already have an account with Pierpass you do not need to set up another account. Eventually they will move information into their own website, www.portcheck.org (this site is still "under construction").
- Option #2 - If you choose to have us pay this fee on your behalf, please indicate your acceptance of our charge of \$20 per container in addition to the actual Clean Truck Plan fee (\$35/20', \$70/40') as is outlined in previous newsflashes. If you are asking us to pay this fee *in addition* to the Pierpass fee we will only charge you an additional \$5.00 or \$25.00 per container for management of both fees.
- If you prefer to set up your own billing account and have us simply manage the service only for you, our fee is \$15 per container; if we are managing both Pier Pass and the CTP fees on your behalf we will do this for \$20 per container for both fees
- The above fees are our standard minimum rates for providing this service and we trust that you understand that this new requirement creates a new process, which requires additional time and expense. Remember, you do have the opportunity to self manage this process as an alternative.

In the case where you have your own assigned trucker you may wish to see if their trucks meet the guidelines as described to mitigate the fee. It is our understanding that many trucking companies who have made the investment to acquire compliant trucks are charging an additional fee to pick up cargo to offset their investment expense. We note that in these cases the truckers fee seems to be slightly less than the actual Clean Truck fee. If you require our assistance in order to better understand the fees and what is taking place in the market please feel free to contact us.

*****IMPORTANT NOTE***** Even if you arrange for a 'door delivery shipment' via the steamship line, in most cases it would still require payment of this fee, as the steamship lines and terminal operators are not allowed to pay or waive the fee due to FMC regulations. Only certain on dock rail movements are exempt from the fee or where truck is fully compliant and meets Port specifications (as detailed in their websites).

After you have had sufficient time to analyze what your preferences are in the handling of these new fees please contact your customer service representative to advise us of your instructions. Should we have a shipment and have not heard from you yet we will simply pay the fee and invoice you for this service.

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