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Air Updates

Cargo Operations at Brazil's Guarulhos Airport on Brink of Collapse

Cargo operations at Latin America's largest air cargo gateway, Sao Paulo's Guarulhos Airport (GRU), are on the verge of a meltdown.

Airline groups are appealing to the federal government to impose emergency measures, including a five-day embargo for dry cargo, in a last-ditch effort to avert the collapse of cargo traffic at the airport.

Video footage of the airport shows warehouses overflowing with cargo and rows of pallets outside, some occupying aircraft parking positions.

In a letter to the Minister for Ports and Airports, the signatories – the Brazilian Association of Airlines, Latin American Air Transport Association and Board of Airline Representatives International Airlines in Brazil – call for "emergency measures in the face of the calamitous situation regarding the deficit in cargo processing."

Read more in an article from The Loadstar.

Ocean Updates

Partial Strike by Port of Montreal Dockworkers: Court Rejects MEA Request

The Federal Labour Court has once again rejected the request of the Maritime Employers Association (MEA) to have the partial strike by dockworkers at the Port of Montreal affecting the Termont company declared illegal.

The Canadian Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) ruled on the principle of res judicata, since it had already ruled on the previous partial strike affecting the same two Termont terminals.

The Council ruled on a virtually identical request after hearing the parties on September 29, said the court. The only difference is that this time the partial strike is unlimited, whereas it was limited to three days in September.

The union is therefore entitled to exercise the right to strike, even partially, without breaching its obligation to negotiate in good faith, it ruled.

Read more in an article from Radio-Canada (translated from French).

Port of Montreal Update

Container handling operations at the Port of Montreal are experiencing a major slowdown. As a result, these activities require only 45 longshore workers to complete tasks on the docks.

The MEA continues to apply mitigation measures to limit the effects of the longshore workers' strikes.

Read more in the November 5 update from the MEA.

Port of Vancouver Operations Update

The coast-wide labour dispute involving the ILWU Local 514 and BC Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) continues to impact operations at some Port of Vancouver terminals. The current job action started November 4.

There is currently limited anchorage capacity at the port due to recent inclement weather and seasonal demand, including grain exports being in their peak shipping period.

Port of Vancouver anchorage utilization (occupied + assigned) - November 5, 0600 PST

- Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (English Bay, Inner Harbour, Indian Arm): 74%
- Southern Gulf Islands: 83%

Read more in the November 5 update from the Port of Vancouver.

Typhoon Kong-rey Creates Congestion at Shanghai, Ningbo and Kaohsiung

Asian container ports Shanghai, Ningbo and Kaohisung are working through congestion after Typhoon Kong-rey blew through last week. And the typhoon, which made landfall in Taiwan on Thursday, was the strongest to lash Taiwan since 1996.

According to EconDB, Kaohsiung, the island's main container port, is experiencing 100% delays for all incoming box ships, which amount to 69 over the next seven days.

Read more in an article from The Loadstar.