



*Classified – External*

# US East and Gulf Coast Port Update

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**PENTAGON**

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# 1 US East and Gulf Coast Ports

## 1.1 ILA/USMX Negotiations Update

Negotiations between the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) over the remaining contract issues including automation at the ports, expires on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2025.

There is a strong possibility of a second strike at US East and Gulf Coast ports if an agreement is not reached by this date.

Pentagon Freight Services is working closely with ocean carriers regarding contingency plans for routing options and amendments to schedules in the event of port closures due to strike action from the 16<sup>th</sup> of January.

Customers will need to prepare to move containers off the terminals to access cargo. It is anticipated that there will be similar terminal closure measures as in October with the suspension of gate and rail services which would also affect empty equipment returns that would need to be held at premises until the ports reopen. Vessels will not be docked over this period.

Please contact your local Pentagon office for further details regarding bookings and shipments that may be affected and alternative routing options to keep your supply chain moving.

For further announcements by the ILA and the USMX, please refer to their websites:

ILA: [ILA News – ILA Union](#)

USMX: [USMX-ILA Negotiations Updates | USMX](#)

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