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Sent via E-Mail & U.S. Mail

March 20, 2020

Chad Lindsay
Vice President, Southern California, Labor Relations
Pacific Maritime Association
One World Trade Center, 17th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90831

Re: Response to COVID-19 Reply Letter Dated March 19, 2020

Dear Chad,

We write to renew our insistence that the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) and its member companies immediately take affirmative action to ensure the health and safety of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) workforce in light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We feel this renewal is necessary as your March 19, 2020 letter did not adequately address our concerns.

We, like you, have been hard at work obtaining the supplies necessary to ensure the safety of our workforce, and in turn the uninterrupted flow of cargo. By speaking with state and local officials, we were able to secure industrial grade supplies including bleach and spray bottles. While we appreciate the actions you have undertaken, we must all acknowledge that more must be done.

As such, Locals 13, 63, and 94 renew our request that the following measures be implemented immediately.

Cargo Handling and Other Equipment

Any and all equipment operated by Longshoremen, Marine Clerks, and Foremen shall be sanitized at a minimum every time a new individual operates that piece of equipment. This includes between each and every shift (day, night, and hoot) as well as between “hot swapping” a machine during the same shift.

This sanitation work must be done by ILWU terminal mechanics, or ILWU garmen at “red circle” facilities. The reason for using these workers is fourfold. First, this is

work that is traditionally done by these workers. This is not a new proposal but rather a continuation of the status quo. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, practice dictated that when a piece of equipment needed cleaning, mechanics were notified and undertook the cleaning. As such, this would be a continuation of those past practices.

Second, ILWU terminal mechanics and ILWU garmen possess the necessary equipment and training to do the job. They are trained in cleaning and disposal, and have experience using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Third, the use of ILWU terminal mechanics and ILWU garmen to sanitize equipment creates uniformity and brings efficiency, and cost effectiveness to the process. A dedicated, highly trained subunit of workers assures the sanitizing is done correctly each time. Your March 19 letter suggesting “wipe dispensers...placed inside and mounted outside allocation booths for general disinfecting (available to any worker to disinfect vehicles, steering wheels, onboard radios/mics, controls)” is woefully inadequate. The vast majority of the ILWU membership is not trained in proper cleaning or disinfecting procedures. Forcing them to disinfect equipment renders it impossible to ensure a uniform disinfecting procedure. Doing so would also be inefficient, slow down cargo movement, and place an onus on foremen to supervise disinfecting.

Fourth, the Pacific Coast Marine Safety Code (PCMSC), the Pacific Coast Longshore And Clerks’ Agreement (PCL&CA), and the Pacific Coast Walking Bosses And Foremen’s Agreement (PCWBFA) mandate a safe working environment be provided. As you know, the terminal operators who operate “red circle” facilities cannot fulfil the obligations mandated without the use of ILWU garmen due to their mechanics’ lack of training and expertise. Thus, it is imperative that at these terminals, ILWU garmen perform the necessary sanitation of equipment.

For the aforementioned reasons, any and all equipment operated by Longshoremen, Marine Clerks, and Foremen must be sanitized by ILWU terminal mechanics, or ILWU garmen at “red circle” facilities.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Non-porous gloves, masks, and protective eyewear shall be available to all ILWU workers upon request.

Marine Terminals

At all Marine Terminal facilities (e.g., M&R shops, gear lockers, check in areas, Supercargo and Foremen offices, restrooms, etc.), install hand sanitizing dispenser stations. Hand sanitizing solutions must contain a minimum of 60% alcohol or bleach solution pursuant to Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. High contact/frequent touch areas such as Clerk work stations (including tables, desks, keyboards, tablets, MODATs), and Trouble Windows, shall be sanitized prior to each shift, day, night, and hoot.

Marine terminal facility restrooms and check in areas, must be sanitized after each shift worked and before the start of each subsequent shift, by ILWU sweepers.

Hot water, hand soap, and hand sanitizer dispensers shall be available in all terminal restrooms. These protective measures are not intended to represent an exhaustive list, but do represent a minimum level of protections to our workforce immediately. We look forward to your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,



Ray Familathe
President
ILWU Local 13



Michael A. Podue
President
ILWU Local 63



Daniel G. Miranda
President
ILWU Local 94

cc: ILWU Local 13 Officers
Coast Committee Officers

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