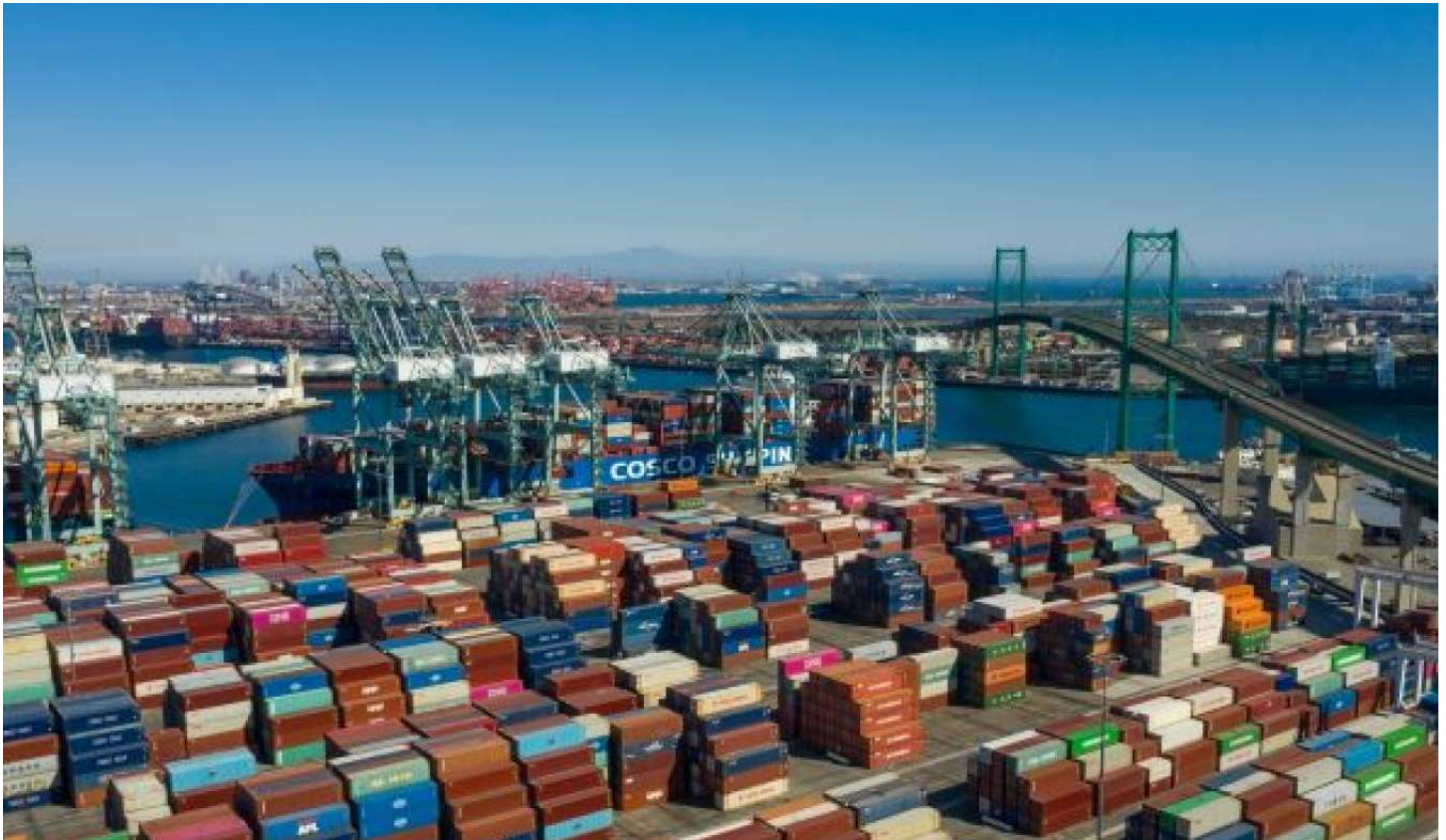


ILWU, management approve manning deal for non-automated LA-LB terminals



Coastwide negotiations between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and employers will now turn to wages and pension benefits. Photo credit: ADLC / Shutterstock.com.

Bill Mongelluzzo, Senior Editor | May 3, 2023, 5:00 PM EDT

Longshore labor and employers at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have reached agreement on manning requirements for non-automated terminals, sources said Wednesday, overcoming a major hurdle that could accelerate a deal on a new coastwide contract as negotiations near the one-year mark.

Three sources told the *Journal of Commerce* that the deal between Local 13 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), which represents terminal operators and shipping lines, was reached Tuesday and involves manning requirements for cargo-handling equipment at conventional container terminals in Los Angeles-Long Beach.

The PMA declined comment Wednesday; the ILWU did not respond to a request for comment.

The two sides reached agreement on manning needs at the three automated terminals in Southern California several weeks ago.

Coastwide negotiations in San Francisco will now turn in earnest to the two major issues yet to be settled — wages and pension benefits. West Coast labor contract negotiations began on May 10, 2022.

LA-LB job actions have ceased

ILWU Local 13 for more than a week in mid-April engaged in job actions at Los Angeles and Long Beach to call attention to its proposals and bring management to the negotiating table. Those actions included the “red tagging” of equipment that triggered time-consuming safety checks and the late dispatching of dockworkers to the terminals each day.

Those activities ceased leading up to the beginning of local talks in Los Angeles on April 24.

Sources close to the coastwide negotiations say they are increasingly optimistic that a tentative agreement could be reached in the next couple of weeks. In early April, the ILWU local and waterfront employers in Hawaii reached a tentative agreement that included a 10% wage increase in the first year of the contract.

When a tentative coastwide agreement is reached, ILWU locals up and down the West Coast will wrap up discussions on remaining issues at their ports. Then the entire coastwide agreement will be distributed to the ILWU membership. ILWU local officers will discuss the contract with their rank and file before they vote on it. Sources say that process will take several weeks, with a ratification vote possible in mid-summer assuming a deal is struck soon.

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