

Port of Vancouver Strike - impact on food imports and exports

Financial Impact

Canadian food importers and exporters reported that additional, unexpected cost, had to be absorbed as a result of strike. Added cost was attributed to the following:

- Trucking food at great lengths to ship fresh and shelf stable food from alternate ports
- Unexpected storage costs attributed to storage of food (refrigerated and ambient temperature) at alternate facilities
- Re-booking of containers
- Air freight contingencies in lieu of more cost-efficient marine freight
- Financial penalties for missed drop-off appointments and late return fees
- Increased fees for expedited shipping to compensate for delays due to strike and for clearance of shipment backlogs
- Staff over-time to respond to product shortages in the Canadian market

Significant Non-financial Impacts

- Chilled and frozen meat shipments, to Asian markets, had to be re-routed through Montreal. The additional transport distance, through Montreal, jeopardized (reduced) the product shelf-life on arrival in Asian markets.
- Canadian food oil and food protein production plants were in jeopardy of curtailing rates due to inability to ship key exports.
- Canadian food exporters absorbed a carbon impact to changing shipping routes from the more fuel-efficient intermodal rail to truck and from going well outside standard routes for storage or to use alternate ports

- Company staff and leadership time reporting on progress and discussing options and making decisions to investigate and activate alternative strategies

About I.E. Canada

IE Canada serves businesses who depend on the movement of goods across Canada's international borders. We bring together a trusted and diverse environment that informs the government and builds consensus-based border policy with over 85 years of engagement and advocacy in Canada. Our member's expertise surrounds the ever-important global supply chain, including; customs and brokerage, freight forwarding, transportation and supply chain infrastructure, manufacturing, wholesale distributors, retailers, legal, financial and tax.

Regards

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