

Spanish ports strike

Wednesday, March 01, 2017

LATEST:

- Port strikes suspended on 10th, 13th and 15th March
- Port strike suspended on March 6th and 8th
- Spanish terminals update, March 7th

Dear customers,

In light of the announced strike of the stevedores' sector in Spain, we would like to share with you the following information received from respective terminals and related with activities at gates.

This information applies to days when the strike is carried out.

Noatum Valencia / Bilbao

Considering exceptional circumstances, the following measures will be implemented if the strike is carried out. The objective is to maintain the highest possible service level.

- The gates will be open 15-30 minutes prior to the regular opening hours.
- The opening hours for access gates will depend on the congestion at the yard. Under these circumstances the usual opening hours cannot be guaranteed.
- Access gates will only be open for delivery of import units (including empties) and delivery/pick-up of refrigerated and IMO units.
- Noatum Bilbao will only accept export units for vessels being operated on within the same day. Export at Noatum Valencia will be restricted to export units for vessels being operated on within the same or next day.
- Any permission to extend the above restriction will be communicated after Monday, March 6th.
- Entry of lorries through the gates after 18:00 cannot be guaranteed; therefore arrivals prior to that hour are recommended.
- Train operations will be limited until 20:00.

With the aim of mitigating the impact during *no strike* days, opening hours will be extended from 20.00 to 02.00, subject to availability and work conditions after the strike day.

Source: Noatum Container Terminal Valencia / Bilbao

Barcelona Best

Recommendation from BEST Terminal is to speed up the pick-up of import containers as much as possible, in addition to performing the delivery operations with a maximum of 7 days in advance of the arrival of the vessel.

Also, empty equipment will not be accepted if it is not intended for immediate shipment (3 days) during the strike period.

In order to mitigate the effect of the strike, the following Saturdays (11, 18 and 25 March), the terminal will remain open from 8:00 am to 20:00 and it is necessary, as always, to do a pre-notice on the previous Friday before 16:00.

For these port operations, written authorisation by the shipping company to withdraw or deliver each of the containers will be required. The Terminal cannot deliver or receive those containers, which do not have the corresponding authorisation.

Source: Barcelona Europe South Terminal - BEST

APM Terminals, Algeciras

During strike days, the gate of the Algeciras Terminal will remain closed.

With the aim of reducing the impact of stoppages and to alleviate possible volume increases, the Terminal will take necessary measures (both in terms of machinery and in schedule) during those days when there is no strike.

Source: Algeciras APM Terminals

TERMAVI

Below are the main actions developed by Termavi:

- Opening of gates 15 minutes prior to the usual opening hours;
- Priority will be given to lorries with IMO and perishable cargo;
- During strike days the gates will close at 18:45;
- During days when there is no strike, an opportunity to open during night will be made available, in order to reduce pending workload (approximate schedule will be between 07:45 and 02:00). This will always be subject to demand and will have to be coordinated with Termavi. This possibility could also be extended to Saturdays.
- Reinforce measures to make the most of the non-strike days.

Source: Terminales Marítimas de Vigo

Please remember that our Customer Service team is always at your disposal with whatever issue you may have.

We thank you for your continuous support and appreciate your understanding.

Sincerely,

Maersk Line

Dear customers,

Over the past weeks, labour disputes have escalated in Spanish ports as a consequence of announced government plans to reform the Spanish Ports Act and change the existing labour system in ports in accordance with European Union regulations. This has caused discontent with the stevedores' unions, who opted for several industrial actions against the proposed law, which was presented to the Parliament (Congreso) on February 24th.

As customer of Spanish ports highly dependent on undisrupted terminal operations, Maersk Line has hoped for a positive solution of the dispute and has been committed to a constructive dialogue with all parties. Regretfully, stevedores' unions have announced a strike during odd hours every second day between March 6th and 25th (i.e. strike carried out on 6th, 8th, 10th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 20th, 22th and 24th March – 9 days in total). Furthermore, reduced terminal productivity can already be experienced in Spanish ports and the situation is expected to continue.

These actions will cause a serious impact on cargo flows in and out of Spain and more widely to our global network, especially due to the strategic importance of the port of Algeciras as a major transshipment port for cargo moving to/out of Europe, Africa and many other destinations.

With this in mind, we would like to advise you of a contingency plan we have put in place to minimise the disruption caused to your business and to ensure we are able to deliver your cargo as promised in a most timely manner possible under current circumstances. The plan is based on the reduced presence in Algeciras during this period and use of alternative ports in Europe and Mediterranean to ensure that we are able to reroute the cargo in the most efficient way. You may therefore experience vessel rerouting, port omissions and additional transshipment of your cargo.

Westbound vessels on our Asia-Europe and Middle East services normally calling Algeciras will be diverted to other facilities in the Mediterranean where capacity has been secured and transshipment connections will be made there for cargo destined for Africa, Mediterranean, North Europe and Latin America, based on our existing network and additional capacity deployed during the contingency. Eastbound vessels will for the time being continue to call Algeciras and eastbound transshipment connections will be made there. We have also made special arrangements for Spanish import cargo taking into consideration various options available in the contexts of a port slowdown in Spain and consequent strike.

Should your cargo be directly impacted by any of the mentioned changes, you will continue to receive relevant information and personalised communication providing all the details of the revised transport plan, including any changes to ETD or ETA of your cargo through the standard Maersk Line process for contingencies notification. Our customer service representatives will in addition do their utmost to reply to your specific queries or address any issues you may have.

Please kindly note that this is an exceptional situation and proposed contingency plans may be subject to change due to urgent or unforeseen circumstances. We remain committed to providing you with timely updates and will continue to do so as the situation develops and as soon as new information is available.

Please remember that you can always find your shipment information updated on our website, as well as arrival and departure dates of our vessels: <https://my.maerskline.com/schedules/vessel>. You can also check your shipment information through our Maersk Line Mobile APP.

Relevant information for IMPORT customers:

Due to the critical and exceptional situation, we kindly ask you to check and confirm that containers have been physically discharged at the terminal of the indicated vessel before you perform any activity at Customs. By doing so, you can avoid issues such as cancelling the documents provided to Customs and avoid sanctions or additional charges associated with those cancellations.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and we appreciate your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Maersk Line

Are you a Spanish customer of Maersk Line?

[Click here](#) to get more detailed updates for specific ports in Spain.