



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION COAST LONGSHORE DIVISION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: ILWU Coast Longshore Division Locals
FROM: The Coast Committee
SUBJECT: Benefit Eligibility during the COVID-19 Health Crisis
DATE: August 24, 2020

In a joint statement issued on March 6, 2020, the parties recognized that West Coast ports are the leading gateway for the movement of cargo from Asia to the United States and that operations at our ports would be impacted by the reduction of cargo flow from Asia as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was shortly after this joint statement that both federal and state authorities designated the longshore workforce as essential, given our vital role in maintaining the Nation's supply chain and goods movement. This meant that we had the ability to work despite the shelter in place orders in the States of Washington, Oregon, and California.

Despite continued operations, the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced cargo flow and this has taken a toll on the wellbeing of our workforce coastwide. The decrease in work opportunity has decreased weekly wages; however, the ability to collect PGP and CWOOG have provided some help in the accrual of qualifying hours for the purposes of Pension and Welfare eligibility even with the downturn. Nevertheless, the Coast Committee realizes that, when it comes to the wellbeing of an individual and his or her family, reduced work opportunity jeopardizes the attainment of Health and Welfare qualifying hours. Thus, we have included a copy of CLRC Mtg. No. 31-20, which outlines the Union's position as to Section 20.861 and Pension and Welfare eligibility during the COVID-19 health crisis.

The Quarterly Manpower Reports for the First Quarter of 2020 reflects that coastwide 1,345 registrants had between 0 and 50 hours worked. The Quarterly Manpower Reports for the Second Quarter of 2020 reflects that coastwide 2,346 registrants had between 0 and 50 hours worked coastwide. On August 4, 2020, the Coast Committee initiated the attached Request for Information to Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) to continue to assess and monitor the situation.

Lately, there have been a number of questions presented to the Coast Committee and Area Welfare Directors about the hours needed for continued eligibility of Pension qualifying years, Welfare, Vacation and Holiday benefits.

Please inform workers that, as of the date of this memorandum, there has been no agreement reached (and joint agreement is required) between the ILWU and PMA to change any of the contractual or trust documents pertaining to the hours worked requirements needed for the continued eligibility of Pension qualifying years, Welfare, Vacation and/or Holiday benefits. We continue to press for joint agreement in order to ensure the wellbeing of our workforce.

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