

**May 2010**

**Imports lead U.S. ports volume gains** (From American Shipper)

Import cargo volume at the major U.S. retail container ports is expected to be up 10percent in May, with double-digit increases expected into this fall as the U.S. economy improves, according to the monthly Global Port Tracker report released Thursday. U.S. ports covered by the tracker handled 1.07 million TEUs in March, the latest month for which actual numbers are available. That was up 7 percent from February, traditionally the slowest month of the year, and up 12 percent from March 2009. It was also the fourth month in a row to show a year-over-year improvement after December broke a 28-month streak of year-over-year monthly declines.

Further monthly forecasts are:

- May, 1.14 million TEUs, up 10 percent from last year.
- June, 1.19 million TEUs, up 17 percent.
- July, 1.25 million TEUs, up 13 percent.
- August, 1.32 million TEUs, up 14 percent.
- September, 1.35 million TEUs, up 19 percent.

The large year-over-year percent increases are partly due to easy comparisons against unusually low numbers last year. The down side of this will be rate increases, lack of space on vessels, and lack of available equipment. See next article.

**Peak Season Surcharges announced** (from Streamline Shippers Assn)

The ship lines in the Trans-Pacific trade have begun to announce their implementation of a Peak Season Surcharge (PSS) for this year. Attached you will see the announcement from Evergreen. Today we received notice as well from Maersk Line for PSS in the same amounts with the same effective date of 6/15/10.

The shipping volumes out of Asia continue to be very strong with all ships booking full at least two weeks prior to scheduled sailing. As a reminder, please ask your suppliers to place their booking as far in advance as possible.

**Customs announces ISF penalties to begin**

In a recent administrative message, Customs announced ISF penalties to begin “this summer”. They indicated that those importers that have failed to file will be targeted first. We expect those that are repeatedly late filers will be targeted next, followed by incomplete and inaccurate filers. We will advise further developments. We remind you that we must have ISF information at least 72 WORKING hours prior to vessel departure.

### **House Passes Haiti Preferences Bill**

Nearly four months of tough negotiations produced a breakthrough on Haiti Trade Preferences legislation (H.R. 5160) that was approved by the House on Thursday. The bill nearly triples the volume of knit and woven apparel goods allowed into the U.S. duty-free, regardless of the origin of yarns and fabrics used in their assembly. Sensitive categories, such as men's and boy's knit T-shirts, continue to be excluded, however, to accommodate the concerns of domestic textile interests. Both the Haiti Trade Preferences and the separate Caribbean Trade Preferences program were renewed through September 30, 2020, to provide greater certainty to companies doing business in the region. The bill now goes to the Senate, where it enjoys widespread support.

### **FDA warns of cargo theft** (from American Shipper)

The Food and Drug Administration last Wednesday strongly urged pharmaceutical companies, wholesalers, retailers and transportation providers to tighten security following a string of cargo thefts during the past year, capped by the heist of \$76 million worth of drugs from an Eli Lilly warehouse in March. The bottom line is you should secure your supply chain as much as practical. For more information go to:

[http://www.americanshipper.com/NewWeb/news\\_page\\_SNW2.asp?news=157458](http://www.americanshipper.com/NewWeb/news_page_SNW2.asp?news=157458)

### **New CBP Commissioner seeks even more advance cargo data** (from American Shipper)

New U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Alan Bersin on Tuesday proposed a “grand bargain” by which importers would share more detailed information about their trade partners and shipments in exchange

for much faster clearance of their goods and guarantees of data protection. It is not clear whether this would be an enhancement to C-TPAT or a new program. For more information go to:

[http://www.americanshipper.com/NewWeb/news\\_page\\_SNW2.asp?news=158243](http://www.americanshipper.com/NewWeb/news_page_SNW2.asp?news=158243)

Please contact us with any questions.

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