

Marine Transportation Security Clearance Program

This is an update with respect to the Marine Transportation Security Clearance Program.

Senior Staff of the BCMEA, Terminal Operators, and other stakeholders including the VPA have been working diligently with Transport Canada to ensure that Port operations in the container sector and cruise sector remain operating on December 15, 2007.

December 15, 2007 is the day upon which Phase 1 of Marine Transportation Security Clearance Program becomes effective. The program requires that ILWU employees entering certain areas and performing certain functions possess a Transport Canada Security Clearance.

As you are aware, the ILWU has refused to participate in the security clearance application process and has launched constitutional challenges to the legislation. Consequently on December 15, 2007, the Terminal Operators would have been without ILWU security cleared employees available for work resulting in operational disruption.

Discussions between the BCMEA, on behalf of our members, and Transport Canada Officials over the last weeks have resulted in an interim solution *to avoid any disruption December 15, 2007.*

The solution will see Terminal Operators file and implement additional interim security arrangements with the Ministry of Transport.

The Ministry has advised that a temporary exemption order from the Marine Security Clearance Program regulations will be issued and will be effective until the third week in February 2008.

ACCORDINGLY THERE WILL NO OPERATIONAL DISRUPTION TO CONTAINER OR CRUISE TERMINAL BUSINESS ON DECEMBER 15, 2007 IN THE PORT OF VANCOUVER OR FRASER RIVER.

The exemption order will allow time for the CIRB to prepare a decision.