

GLOBALPANDI

Circular for P & I Clubs

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Correspondents for:

Britannia, British Marine, Charterers P&I Club, GARD, ITIC, Navigators, Nordisk Defence Club (Through Sabatino Pizzolante), North of England P&I Club, Raets Club, Shipowners P&I Club, Skuld, South of England, Steamship Mutual, The American Club, The London P&I Club, West of England and Through Transport Club (TTC).

Congestion at the port of Puerto Cabello

In the last weeks serious congestion was reported at the port of Puerto Cabello, resulting in more than 40 ships in anchorage area waiting for available berth, this affecting not only bulk carriers but also container ships. The causes for the congestion had different explanations, some sources explained that it had to do with an increment of importations of government food, mainly rice, sugar, wheat and corn, whereas others attributed the same to operational pitfalls as a consequence of deficient cargo handling equipment, lack of sufficient weight bridges within the port area and other constrains giving rise to low productivity. The Ministry of Commerce Richard Canán, declared to the press at the end of July that the increase of cargo was related to importation of wheat and corn that the government had to complete before September. The problem has particularly affected liner services calling at this port, the main general cargo port of the country, to the extent that some services have omitted the same in its itineraries, waiting for the situation to improve and diverting the boxes to neighbouring ports.

Bolivariana de Puertos, S.A. entity in charge of the administration and operation of the terminal, however, has taken extraordinary measures to tackle the problem by introducing 24 hours working operations during the weekends, as well as diverting some bulk carriers to the port of La Guaira. Also private port operators are being allowed to carry out stevedoring services for container ships, all measures that have resulted in the improving of port productivity, reducing significantly the ships at anchorage.

Although ships calling at this port must take into account the congestion issue, seeking regularly advice from ship agents, we are glad to report that the marine terminal is coming to normal, due to the measures introduced one month ago.

Should you need any assistance or further information regarding the topic stated above, please feel free to contact:

GLOBALPANDI, S.A.

Phones: +58-242-3641801/3641026/3641798

Fax: +58-242-3640998

E-mail: mail@globalpandi.com

Webpage: www.globalpandi.com

AOH: +58-412-4210036

Contact: Mr. José Alfredo Sabatino Pizzolante.