

NEW ENFORCEMENT OF WEIGHT LIMITS ON CONTAINERS AT LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH PORTS

Meat importers shipping refrigerated (reefer) containers through the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports should note that Customs has recently strengthened enforcement of weight restrictions. Containers flagged for enforcement or tactical holds must meet strict weight limits, or Customs may delay shipments, assess additional fees, or deny entry.

Key Points:

- The critical weight limit to note is **59,000 pounds**. Containers over this weight may face significant restrictions, including possible re-export of the container.
- **Price Transfers** is the exclusive drayage contractor authorized to handle containers flagged for enforcement and tactical holds at these ports.
- Price Transfers' current overweight permit limits them to moving containers **up to 59,000 pounds** only.
- Reefer containers exceeding 59,000 pounds and flagged for enforcement or tactical inspection **cannot be drayed by Price Transfers**.
- If your container is flagged for overweight, you may be required to **transload the cargo at the terminal** to meet weight limits. However, **APM Terminal Pier 400 does not allow on-terminal transloads**.
- If the container load **cannot be reduced satisfactorily by CBP**, the container will be **subject to re-export**.
- Overweight containers that cannot be transloaded and remain over the weight limit may be denied entry or required to be reexported.
- Importers are responsible for any fees associated with repacking, handling, and inspections.

This new enforcement is based on a memo released by CBP Tactical Operations Section Chief, Ticha Buranasombati. A copy of the memo is [linked here](#) for your reference.

What importers should do:

- Confirm that reefer containers meet weight requirements before arrival.
- Coordinate with carriers and Customs brokers to understand inspection and repacking procedures.
- MICA staff have recently worked with containers in these situations and can be consulted on strategies for overcoming these challenges.
- Prepare for possible additional fees related to weight compliance and inspection.

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