

Port Driver Bill Of Rights

Port Drivers have certain fundamental rights, including the right to:

- Earn a fair wage to support themselves and their families;
- Health benefits for themselves and their families;
- Pension benefits;
- Pay for all the time it takes to do assigned work, including waiting time, maintenance and repair time, and time taken moving containers within the port. Road drivers should not be forced to pay port drayage charges;
- Safe and road-ready equipment at time of dispatch;
- Properly labeled containers, of a safe weight for transport over public streets and highways. When drivers are required to haul containers that are overweight but safe, they must receive extra compensation to offset wear and tear on their tractors. They must also be indemnified for any fines and have ironclad “whistle-blower” protection in reporting overweight containers which turn out to be unsafe;
- Information on the contents of the containers they haul. Drivers must have ironclad whistle-blower protection for reporting improperly labeled containers, or the unauthorized transport of toxic or hazardous materials.
- Ironclad whistle-blower protection for reporting the use of the same container to transport food products after toxic or hazardous materials without the container first being decontaminated;
- The right to refrain from cleaning out containers that have transported toxic substances or hazardous materials. Drivers are not trained and do not have the proper protective clothing, it is work for trained professionals;
- An environment free from all forms of harassment, discrimination, retaliation and oppression; and
- Freedom to organize and form a union without the interference of employers. Threats of retaliation, blacklists, the threat of being permanently replaced or fired, — all these violate the letter and spirit of state and federal law and the conventions of the International Labor Organization.

PORT TEAMSTER

