

PEAK SEASON PLAN FOR PATRICK

Like any busy time there should be certain factors taken into consideration and with these factors how much can we the stevedore control.

So to start the "Peak Season" last year saw us go from approx 60,000 units per month to 72,000 units handled. This includes Imports Exports and all Transhipments keeping in mind all still require straddle movements.

To handle this and any other busy period we will be working very hard in conjunction with our maintenance staff to ensure maximum equipment availability and that Planned Maintenance is carried out at suitable times.

Current staff levels are being reviewed and an annual leave roster is in place to try and ensure staffing levels can be maintained.

Again and probably the crux of any Peak Season is that it is a Peak Season for all members of this logistics supply chain and is not just a problem for Stevedores. Examples being that Empty facilities that are currently stretched will be impacted more causing delays to both Transport and Terminals. Transport companies will have to find extra Vehicles to cover extra volumes.

Empty stack runs are going to be more essential than ever and this will impact on the ability for the stevedore to supply those extra slots for Imports in the times that customers require them which then impacts on how Transport operators deal with Fatigue management etc.

To achieve all this and to ease the impact is to push the system and that means there will be slightly longer TTT and that to get the slots that people need will be slightly harder and that we still need to maintain a certain degree of flexibility.

As a group we must all work together and be prepared to all change our practises slightly or more than slightly to get through. This may include working weekends or later at night Getting customers to open or agreeing to staging. The most important thing to remember in my opinion is to keep things moving in the way in which we have but on a slightly bigger scale.

I cant answer or solve all problems that can or will happen outside our gates and I can assure you that we will endeavour to minimise the impact but there will be an impact and we all will need to adjust to accommodate this.

Again as a Terminal operator we will still have to maintain most disciplines with slot times etc and keep moving through as much as we can.