

Port Transportation Association



May 20, 2020

RE: Missing Door Restraints

To Whom It May Concern,

Over the past few weeks, the Port Transportation Association has been discussing safety concerns regarding the fitness of containers released from off-dock depots and Port terminals with its members. In this review, it has come to our attention that there are a large number of containers that are missing door restraints.

Respectively, we have reached out to each (major) shipping line to advise them of this serious safety issue and the dangers of doors inadvertently swinging open.

The response from the lines was that drivers were to reject the units if restraints were missing.

We are requesting that all **off-dock terminals to stop deeming all containers with missing door restraints as good order, and ready for release.**

It is our belief that off-dock terminals would be an excellent location to identify and address containers with missing door restraints.

As a door restraint is simply a string fashioned in a loop, the repair is relatively easy and can be accomplished by a checker within 30 seconds. Depots would then have the opportunity charge the shipping lines for performing this necessary service.

We would like all off-dock depots to be aware that we will be advising all members to begin rejecting units that do not have door restraints as it poses a risk for both the driver and public.

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For transparency and industry purposes, the PTA intends to distribute all content and post all meaningful dialogue on our website, to be viewed by both industry and the public.

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With this in mind, we are aware that this will cause more handling at terminals for rejected containers and we are asking you what a reasonable time frame you would expect to implement changes, before companies begin to reject such units.

We value your input in this matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Port Transportation Association