



Performance Chemicals

## CUSTOMER ANNOUNCEMENT

### **An update to the ongoing labor negotiations regarding US East and Gulf Coast ports**

There has been an ongoing dispute between the International Longshoremen Association (ILA) and United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) over the ILA contract which is set to expire December 29, 2012.

Both parties have yet to come to an agreement after months of collective bargaining negotiations. The ILA has called for a full Master Contract Wage Scale Meeting with USMX which will begin Monday, December 10, 2012. The meetings are scheduled over a 3 day period and will continue beyond if a contract can be reached.

If the ILA and USMX are unable to come to an agreement by December 29, 2012 there will be an ILA strike which will affect 95% of all East and Gulf coast ports.

Unfortunately, this is a serious concern for **A-Gas Americas** because product is brought in to the following East and Gulf coast ports:

- New York, NY
- Charleston, SC
- Jacksonville, FL
- Houston, TX

If the strike does occur, in an attempt to minimize disruption, we plan to divert iso tanks to Chicago which will be brought in through the port of Vancouver (Canada) and transported to Chicago by the CN rail.

**We will keep you informed of any updates or changes  
to this matter as they arise.**

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